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**A-League Round 4** Friday 1st Nov - Sunday 3rd Nov 2013



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**KEVIN TAKES  
CHARGE AT  
VICTORY**

# NEW MUSKETEER!

Photo: ZEE KO

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# Rebirths and Restarts



It never rains, but it pours.

Melbourne Heart's stuttering start to the season has not been helped by a string of injuries to have plagued its key players, the latest being central defender Patrick Kisnorbo who crashed to the turf in agony while chasing Perth goal scorer Jamie MacLaren last Sunday.

The former Leeds and Hearts of Midlothian defender escaped major structural injury, but the damage to his knee cartilage will still rule him out for at least the next three weeks just as Patrick Gerhardt is eased back into first team action.

It's ill luck for the Red and White half of Melbourne, as they continue to seek their first win of the season after two draws and a loss. Frustratingly enough, it appears that the pieces are there for coach John Aloisi and he will be desperately hoping that players like Michael Mifsud and Rob Wilaert can stay fit after disrupted preseasons.

The injury list already includes towering marquee man Orlando Engelaar and captain Harry Kewell, and though the same press release announcing Kisnorbo's injury also revealed



New Melbourne Victory coach Kevin Muscat looks the part at the press conference on Thursday. Photo: ZEE KO

Kewell's return to training, the club was quick to admit the one time Australian golden boy was still in doubt for the Round 4 A-League clash against Brisbane Roar.

Speaking of Brisbane, Mike Mulvey and his charges will be hoping for better luck after falling victim to a James Troisi masterstroke against Melbourne Victory. The Brisbane coach was forced into an embarrassing apology post-game for comments aimed at outgoing Victory coach Ange Postecoglou in the run up to their match, sound bites that Postecoglou labelled

'disrespectful and unnecessary'. This writer feels it's a bit of a shame given how dreary most press conferences get these days, with media-managed coaches and players repeating oft-quoted clichés and platitudes on a weekly basis. Nevertheless, Mulvey has been much quieter in the lead up to this weekend as they look to bounce back against Heart.

Victory on the other hand are entering a new era of their own. Postecoglou's departure has led to favourite son Kevin Muscat's coronation after a lengthy apprenticeship. The appointment was never

really in doubt given the paucity of options, but fans are understandably cautious as to what this appointment will bring. There are many who are hoping that the former Victory hardman will continue where his mentor left off, but that is something that definitely remains to be seen, starting with the Monday night kick-off against Wellington Phoenix.

It's definitely an interesting match up as familiar faces return to town. Victory fans once lauded dour coach Ernie Merrick and portly playmaker Carlos Hernandez, but the duo return in Wel-

lington colours this time round, determined to turn the tables on their former employers. Muscat's unbeaten record (remember that win against Newcastle Jets as interim boss?) is on the line against the Kiwi invaders and you can bet that his every move will be scrutinised come Monday evening.

The National Youth League has finally gotten underway too, though you'd hardly have noticed it with both Melbourne teams on the road for Round 1. Victory were pegged back by Roar in an entertaining 3-3 draw, as Andrew Nabbutt's brace made a case for first team inclusion after getting dropped to make way for Kosta Barbarouses. Defender James Karvelis was the other goalscorer, but coach Darren Davies will be expecting better as they return home to face the Australian Institute of Sport at Lakeside Stadium.

Ersin Kaya was the hero for Heart Youth as he scored the only goal in a tense encounter with Perth Glory. It will be scant consolation for Heart fans after the senior team lost by the same score line, but it is perhaps a promising sign for coach Joe Palattides as he looks to nurture the next young stars on Heart's youth conveyor belt.

Last but not least, on to the ladies as Melbourne Victory's W-League team were unveiled at AAMI Park in midweek. There were no surprises given the names revealed in this very column over the past three weeks. But still, there was a tinge of excitement in the air as we got to see Lisa De Vanna in Victory kit for the very first time. It was a bit strange to see the diminutive De Vanna placed next to the towering figure of goalkeeper Brianna Davey during every photo oppor-

tunity, but anyone who dismisses her based on her stature will be made to eat humble pie when she steps on to the pitch. For fans of the women's game and of the Matildas in particular, De Vanna is a huge signing. Victory's Football Operations Manager Paul Trimboli seemed equally in awe, as he compared her potential influence to men's captain Mark Milligan. High praise indeed.

It was good too to see Ashley Brown back in Victory colours. The twinkle-toed winger has missed close to a year of football after an ACL injury sustained in Round 2 last year but is close to a return after a couple of frustrating setbacks over the winter. It may be awhile yet before the Matilda returns to first team training, but it is a sign as to her ability that Victory have handed her a contract as she completes her rehabilitation. Who knows, we might see a pair of siblings playing at the very highest level in Melbourne if Jordan Brown makes the grade with the men's team. We can only hope.

Whatever the case, it's a feast of football ahead for Melbourne fans. While both Heart teams are playing away, Victory fans will be literally spoilt for choice this weekend. The W-League team will kick up for their first preseason kick out against a Women's Premier League All-Star side on Saturday afternoon at John Cain Memorial Stadium, followed by the Youths the next day at Lakeside Stadium. And then of course, we have the mouth-watering fixture against Wellington Phoenix on Monday. Take your pick, or go see all of them – the choice is yours.



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# W-League At The Ready



Melbourne Victory players Ashley Brown, Brianna Davey, Cindy Lay and Stephanie Catley at the club's W-League launch during the week. PHOTO: ZEE KO

By Katie Lambeski

The W-League season promises to be one of the most even and exciting editions in its short history, with the competition kicking off November 9th. Last year's premiers Sydney FC, runners up Melbourne Victory, Western Sydney, Brisbane Roar and Perth Glory can all mount legitimate claims for this season's championship.

Retaining the vast majority of its championship-winning squad, Sydney FC look well placed to defend their crown. Despite losing Kyah Simon and Alannah Kennedy to crosstown rivals Western Sydney Wanderers, the squad boasts the likes of Danielle Brogan, Caitlin Foord, Ellyse Perry and Samantha Kerr. They will also welcome a striker with international experience in Jodie Taylor to the squad to boost their attacking ranks. They have an enviable task of going back-to-back, whether or not they do will be a talking point over the season.

Melbourne Victory have just recently announced some stellar signings, among them the returning Welsh captain Jess Fishlock and star striker Lisa DeVanna. New coach David Edmondson has picked a primarily Victoria based squad, among them 16 year old Beattie Goad, who is coming off the back of an outstanding season at EAP. Having the firepower to cause many sides trouble, Edmondson promised plenty of goals at the club's season launch "If you look at the squad, we're going to be an attacking side. We're going to play positive football, I expect us to score lots of goals." Can the Victory women go one better this season?

Western Sydney Wanderers have been dealt two blows ahead of the season, with Kyah Simon sustaining an ACL injury that will keep her out for the season, adding to the loss of Mackenzie Arnold for a large part of this season. But they will welcome a bevy of impres-

sive new signings Kennedy, Emily van Egmond, Heather Garriock and striker Jenna Kingsley. Having made inroads last year in their inaugural season, the team looks well set to go further than they did last season.

Brisbane Roar is another looking well-placed for a big season, as coach Belinda Wilson believes "With the current depth in the squad, I think we can make a real push for success in this year's W-League season." A Queenslander-dominated squad, they welcome nominated FIFA world female player of the year Nadine Angerer as their custodian. Club stalwart Claire Polkinghorne will lead the Roar, adding to the talented and experienced squad. Tameka Butt, Katrina Gorry and Emily Gielnik will provide class to the team, as they aim even higher this season.

Perth Glory were one win away from a Grand Final berth last season, only to be denied by a controversial penalty loss to Melbourne Victory. This year, they welcome Chantel Jones, Cecilie Sandvej and Christina Julien from U.S and European clubs, while having last season's Golden Boot in Kate Gill up front. Despite losing de Vanna, they will look to build on and maintain their attack after they scored the most goals last season. Jamie Harnwell again takes charge as the head coach, with the West Australian football identity overseeing a transformation at the club over the past two years.

Canberra United welcome Liesbeth Migchelsen as their coach this season, as well as a roster made up of a core of the squad that played last season adding to the four international signings made. Lydia Williams, Kendall Fletcher, Lori Lindsey and Stephanie Ochs all joined the club over the off-season, with Sally Shipard returning from a horror run of knee injuries over two years. Michelle Heyman will bear the brunt of the goal-scoring responsibilities as the club looks to challenge in the top half of the ladder and possibly a run at the championship.

Tipped to struggle by many, both Adelaide and Newcastle will look to change that this season. Adelaide, with Adelaide footballing identity Ross Aloisi as their new coach and Matilda in Melissa Barbieri joining the club, endeavour to end their reputations as strugglers. It will be no easy feat and Aloisi has a challenge on his hands. They have lost Alex Natoli and Emma Checker to the Victory, the squad is as yet unnamed. Newcastle have looked local in picking their squad this season, with new coach Peter McGuiness handing Libby Copus-Brown, Adriana Jones and Sophie Nenadovic their first places in a W-League squad. Gema Simon has been named captain, while the club welcomes Hannah Beard, Lauren Brown and Ashley Spina.

Melbourne Victory will take on the Women's Premier League All Stars of Victoria in a friendly match at 2pm on Saturday 2nd November at John Cain Memorial Park.

**Melbourne Victory Squad:**  
1. Brianna Davey, 2. Rebekah Stott, 3. Jessica Humble, 4. Katie Hoyle, 5. Laura Spiranovic, 6. Cindy Lay, 7. Stephanie Catley (C), 8. Ashley Brown, 9. Caitlin Friend, 10. Jessica Fishlock, 11. Lisa De Vanna, 12. Jessica Samuelsson, 13. Tiffany Eliadis, 14. Enza Barilla, 15. Emma Checker, 16. Beattie Goad, 17. Gulcan Koca, 18. Emily Hulbert, 19. Alex Natoli, 20. Cassandra Dimovski

W-League Rd 1	
<b>Saturday 9 November</b>	
Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory	Wanderers Oval KO 3:00 PM
<b>Saturday 9 November</b>	
Brisbane Roar v Canberra United	AJ Kelly Fields KO 4:00 PM
<b>Sunday 10 November</b>	
Wanderers v Adelaide United	Marconi Stadium KO 2:00 PM
<b>Sunday 10 November</b>	
Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC	Lakesie Stadium KO 3:00 PM
Match telecast LIVE on ABC-TV	

# MUSCAT TAKES REIGNS AT VICTORY

Kevin Muscat said Melbourne Victory can win the A-League title in his first season in charge after succeeding Ange Postecoglou at the club.

Muscat was formally unveiled as the new head coach on Thursday, having signed a two-year deal which contracts him until the end of the 2014-15 campaign.

The inaugural club captain and a two-time championship-winner during his playing days, Muscat feels there is no reason he cannot bring the ultimate prize back to AAMI Park at the first attempt.

"I learnt very quickly at this football club that winning silverware and being successful... that was the mantra 10 years ago when I first arrived," he said.

"That the football club was geared to being successful. I'll be giving it my all to try and win things immediately. Everyone at this stage in the competition is still trying to win it. We're no different."

Muscat said it will be business as usual for Victory on the field following Postecoglou's departure to coach the Socceroos, with no major tactical changes expected.

"The football team now has an identity," he said.

"There's a certain DNA that's expected from Melbourne Victory when they perform now. My ego doesn't tell me that I need to fracture what's happened in the last 18 months and rebuild it.

"I believe I was integral in implementing the football philosophy at the moment and I intend to improve that as time goes on."

Notoriously prone to disciplinary issues as a player, Muscat acknowledged his reputation will precede him in some quarters, but does not expect that chequered past to affect his career in the dugout.

"I do understand there will be



Taking charge: Kevin Muscat takes the helm at Melbourne Victory. Photo: ZEE KO

preconceived ideas about myself and I don't frown upon those at all," he said.

"I just ask to be judged on merit in what I do with the football team and time will tell."

According to Victory chairman Anthony Di Pietro, no other candidates were seriously considered to fill the void left by Postecoglou, with Muscat the club's first and only choice.

"We were very clear about what we wanted to do," he said.

"It was clear that we had a program in place and Kevin was by far the best-placed person to continue that on. It wasn't a decision made with comfort or ease, it was

a decision that was made because it was the right decision."

Muscat will take charge of the team for the first time this season on Monday, November 4 at 7:30pm against Wellington Phoenix.

## GOAL! WEEKLY

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Goal! Weekly endeavours to be as accurate as possible with everything it publishes. The Fair Trading Act 1999 requires Goal! Weekly to disclaim any belief in the truth or falsity of information which is supplied to it and which is published in other than editorial content.

## Sainsbury named October NAB Young Footballer

Football Federation Australia (FFA) and NAB, together with the Central Coast Mariners, are proud to announce the first nominee for the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award 2013/14.

Trent Sainsbury from the Central Coast Mariners was voted as the most outstanding U-21 player for the month of October following standout performances in the opening three matches of the Hyundai A-League 2013/14 Season.

"Obviously it's great to be recognised for my performances, and to carry over my form from last season into this one," Sainsbury said. "Being acknowledged by media and other football experts as one of the top young players in the Hyundai A-League is something I am extremely proud of", Sainsbury said.

Trent Sainsbury is the first nominee for the annual award and will be joined by five other nominees to be in the running for the grand prize. Interestingly, Sainsbury was also the final nominee for the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award 2012/13 from the Hyundai A-League 2012/13 season

NAB has generously donated a \$1,500 equipment pack and \$1,000 in a NAB Community Saver Account to Trent's chosen junior club. Armadale FC in his home town of Perth

The overall winner of the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award 2013/14 will receive a \$10,000 NAB personal investment portfolio, along with a NAB Private Client Manager to assist with a range of banking and financial services.

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# SCOREBOARD

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Roar	3	2	0	1	6	2	4	6
2 Western Sydney Wanderers	3	1	2	0	4	2	2	5
3 Central Coast Mariners	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	5
4 Melbourne Victory	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
5 Adelaide United	3	1	1	1	5	4	1	4
6 Perth Glory	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	4
7 Sydney FC	3	1	0	2	2	6	-4	3
8 Melbourne Heart	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2
9 Wellington Phoenix	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2
10 Newcastle Jets	3	0	2	1	0	2	-2	2

THIS WEEK

Round 4	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Fri Nov 1	West Sydney Wanderers v Adelaide United	Parramatta Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sat Nov 2	Perth Glory v Sydney FC	NIB stadium	2:30 PM	5:30 PM
Sat Nov 2	Newcastle Jets v Central Coast Mariners	Hunter Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sun Nov 3	Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Heart	Suncorp Stadium	4:00 PM	5:00 PM
Mon Nov 4	Melbourne Victory v Wellington Phoenix	Etihad Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM

NEXT WEEK

Round 5	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Fri Nov 8	Melbourne Heart v West Sydney Wanderers	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sat Nov 9	Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory	AMI Stadium, Christchurch	5:30 PM	3:30 PM
Sat Nov 9	Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets	Hindmarsh Stadium	5:00 PM	5:30 PM
Sat Nov 9	Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory	Allianz Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sun Nov 10	Central Coast Mariners v Brisbane Roar	Bluetongue Stadium	5:00 PM	5:00 PM

## ROUND THREE

Melbourne Victory 1 (Troisi 56)  
Brisbane Roar 0  
Crowd: 21,693 @ Etihad Stadium

Central Coast Mariners 1 (Fitzgerald 2)  
Adelaide United 0  
Crowd: 9,109 @ Bluetongue Stadium

Sydney FC 0  
Western Sydney Wanderers 2 (La Rocca 11, Ono 26)  
Crowd: 40,388 @ Allianz Stadium

Wellington Phoenix 0  
Newcastle Jets 0  
Napier, New Zealand

Perth Glory 1 (Maclaren 50')  
Melbourne Heart  
Crowd: 13,856 @ NIB Stadium

## TOP GOAL SCORERS

03 Jeronimo Naumann (Adelaide Utd)

02 David Williams (Heart)  
Marcos Flores (Mariners)

01 Alessandro Del Piero (SFC)  
Mitchell Duke (Mariners)  
Tomi Juric (Wanderers)  
Stein Huysegems (Phoenix)  
Besart Berisha (Roar)  
Ivan Franjic (Roar)  
Fabio Ferriera (Adelaide)  
Ryo Nagai (Glory)  
Shinji Ono (Wanderers)  
James Troisi (Victory)  
Fitzgerald (Mariners)  
Jamie Maclaren (Glory)



Jamie Maclaren scored his first goal for Perth Glory on home debut this weekend.

The Young Socceroo was on the books at Blackburn Rovers and don't be surprised to see his name as a regular feature on the scoring charts.

## A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 3

Follow Steven Talevski on twitter @steventalevski.

Compiled by Steven Talevski



Despite there being only five goals this weekend in the A-League, there was plenty of action on the field.

Round 3 was highlighted by the record Sydney Derby crowd as a Shinji Ono led Wanderers made Sydney FC look second rate without their influential, and Goal! Weekly team of the week favourite, Alessandro Del Piero missing.

Fellow early title contenders, Melbourne Victory and Central Coast along with Perth picked up one nil wins at home while it was a show of some fantastic goalkeeping that kept Newcastle and Wellington goal-less. Here is our team of the week:

**GK: Mark Birighitti** - Newcastle may be struggling to score but they are doing just fine on the other end of the field with Birighitti keeping this second clean sheet of the season. Birighitti pulled some superb saves from Carlos Hernandez and Andrew Durante strikes to earn the Jets a point.

**RB: Jerome Polenz** - Once again in our team of the week, Polenz was rock solid at right back for the Wanderers as he helped them keep a clean sheet while also offering an attacking threat when given the chance.

**CB: Trent Sainsbury** - The Mariners central defender was solid as ever as he led the Central Coast defence to absorb Adelaide's possession of the ball allowing them no room to make a breakthrough. Sainsbury also launched a number of counter attacks.

**CB: Adrian Leijer** - Stripped of captaincy in the off season, Leijer looks like a rejuvenated player as he was a standout in the Victory defence that minimized the Roar attack as Melbourne picked up their first win of the season.

**LB: Scott Jamieson** - Jamieson was one of the Glory's best against a travelling Melbourne Heart side. The left back stopped the pacey Heart attack and was influential as usual further up the park.

**CDM: Iacopo La Rocca** - The Italian midfielder set Allianz Stadium alight with his headed goal early in the first half. An anchor in the Wanderers midfield, La Rocca was rock solid covering the Wanderers defence.

**RM: Nick Fitzgerald** - Fitzgerald is slowly cementing his spot in the Mariners midfield as he broke the deadlock against the Reds with a stunning strike on the edge of the penalty area.

**RCM: Shinji Ono** - The Marquee player once again proved his worth in the Sydney Derby, setting up La Rocca's opener with a great cross before finding the back of the net himself.

**LCM: Mitch Nichols** - Nichols seems to be getting more comfortable week by week in Victory colours. Nichols pulled the strings in Melbourne's attacking third and set up James Troisi's goal.



Mitch Nichols and Adrian Leijer both made the GW Team of the Week.

**LM: Sidnei Sciola** - The Brazilian import impressed in his first outing for the Glory at their home ground, setting up a number of goal scoring opportunities. On any other day, he may have had a couple of assists next to his name if the Glory finishing was better.

**ST: Mitch Duke** - A striker that did not score is in the team of the week you may ask? Mitch Duke was a dangerous force for the Mariners in attack as they looked to counter the Reds possession. His combination with Marcos Flores is looking strong and the striker found himself unlucky not to be on the score sheet.

**Coach: Ange Postecoglou** - This is the first and last time Postecoglou will be Goal! Weekly's coach of the week this season after taking over the Socceroos. The Victory were at their best against a very good Brisbane side and sent their coach off as a winner courtesy of a James Troisi strike. The question is now, can Melbourne replace Postecoglou and keep their title chase on charge.

**Star Man: Shinji Ono** - The former Japanese international has staked his claim to be the A-League's best player as he found the back of the net and set La Rocca up to hand the Wanderers a two nil victory. Playing in front of a record New South Wales regular season crowd, Ono stood out from the rest this weekend and continues to repay the faith of Tony Popovic in bringing him to the A-League.



Melbourne Victory



1

Brisbane Roar



0

Match Details

**Melbourne Victory:** 1. COE Nathan (gk), 3. TRAORE Adama, 4. ANSELL Nicholas, 5. MILLIGAN Mark, 6. BROXHAM Leigh, 9. BARBAROUSES Kosta, 10. THOMPSON Archie, 14. TROISI James, 16. NICHOLS Mitch, 23. LEIJER Adrian, 25. GERIA Jason. Subs: 7. FINKLER Gui, 11. PAIN Connor, 16. MAHAZI Rashid, 20. THOMAS Lawrence, 24. GALLOWAY Scott.

**Brisbane Roar:** 1. THEO Michael (gk), 2. SMITH Matthew, 3. STEFANUTTO Shane, 5. FRANJIC Ivan, 11. MILLER Liam, 13. NORTH Jade, 17. MCKAY Matthew, 18. BRATTAN Luke, 19. HINGERT Jack, 22. BROICH Thomas, 29. YEBOAH Kwame. Subs: 10. HENRIQUE, 15. DONACHIE James, 20. ACTON Matthew (gk), 23. PETRATORS Dimitri, 26. BROWN Corey.

Match Stats		
18	Tackles	19
12	Total Shots	12
398	Total Passes	540
42.7%	Possession	57.3%
8	Corners	10
6	Offsides	2
9	Fouls committed	16

**Man of the Match**  
MITCH NICHOLLS (Melb Victory)

# Ange Signs Off On A Winning Note

By Andrew Bishara

The Victory ensured that new Socceroos coach, Ange Postecoglou departed the club a victor with a tough 1-0 win over his former club, Brisbane Roar.

New signing James Troisi proved the hero yet again scoring the winner, following his 95th minute equaliser against Adelaide United last weekend.

The goal was enough to give the Victory the points against the team that made Postecoglou one of the most respected coaches in the game.

The Roar, the team Postecoglou led to two consecutive titles, while playing the most attractive football in Australia had every intention of ruining his swansong.

But the Victory wanted nothing more than to let the 48-year-old leave in style, with the coach sticking to the team that clawed its way back from two goals down against Adelaide last week.

While Roar coach Mike Mulvey had to replace striker Besart Berisha, following the 2011/12 Goal Boot winner pulling his hamstring in his side's 4-0 thrashing of Sydney last weekend.

The game started full of pace, with both sides fighting for possession, but there weren't any clear-cut chances.

The Victory could have had a lead as early as the third minute, if it weren't for former 'keeper Michael Theo.

The Roar custodian was quickest to react after former teammate Mitch Nichols send it a low cross into the box for Kosta Barbarouses to tap in, but Theo prevented the shot.

Nichols was at it again minutes, when he mistimed a beautiful Adama Traore cross, flicking the ball away from goal.

As the half wore on, Brisbane began to control possession and had two decent chances in two minutes, thanks to Liam Miller and Kwame Yeboah.

Following some pinball football in the Victory box, Miller headed the



Victory players celebrate after James Troisi scored the only goal of a tight affair from an acute angle.

ball from the 18-yard line, which flew over the bar.

A minute later, a dangerous low-cross by Shane Stefanutto found Yeboah alone in the box, but his first time shot went right to the hands of Victory 'keeper Nathan Coe.

The second-half started much like the first, until the 56th minute when Troisi blew the game wide open with a stunning solo effort.

After getting on the end of an Archie Thompson pass, Troisi's heavy first touch saw the winger push the ball right to the byline.

But with Theo leaving his line, and from the tightest of angles, Troisi managed to drill in a low shot under the legs of the Roar 'keeper to

grab the winner.

Victory should have doubled their lead with a dominant 10-minute spell, if it weren't for Theo keeping the Queenslanders in the game.

First, Nichols launched a rocket from 25-yards, but Theo acrobatically pulled off a save.

Minutes later, Thompson found himself alone in the box, but Theo parried the ball away, ensuing that Thompson remained goalless this season.

The surge by the home team woke the visitors up, as they started to turn the momentum.

But they couldn't find their way past a tight Victory defense, who were more than happy to weather the storm and play on the counter.

When the final whistle sounded, the Victory faithful exploded with joy on a perfect night of football.



Victory's Adam Traore gives chase to Brisbane's Matt Mackay



And the deal they gave me was this big! Socceroo-bound coach Ange Postecoglou soaks up his Victory farewell.

WHO WILL BE FIRST PAST THE POST?

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Central Coast



1

Adelaide United



0

Match Details

**Central Coast Mariners 1** (Fitzgerald 2')  
**Adelaide United 0**  
Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford  
Attendance: 9,109  
Referee: Peter Green

**Central Coast Mariners:** 1. Justin PASFIELD (Gk), 3. Joshua ROSE, 5. Zachary ANDERSON, 7. John HUTCHINSON © (6. Brent GRIF-FITHS 90+3'), 8. Nick MONTGOM-ERY, 9. Mitchell DUKE, 10. Marcos FLORES (21. Mile STERJOVSKI 78'), 11. Nick FITZGERALD (19. Matt SIMON 66'), 14. Michael MCGLINCHIEY, 15. Storm ROUX, 16. Trent SAINSBURY

Substitutes not used: 12. Liam REDDY (Gk), 24. Jesse CURRAN  
Yellow cards: Rose, Hutchinson  
Red cards: Nil

**Adelaide United:** 1. Eugene GALEKOVIC (Gk) (C), 3. Nigel BOOGAARD, 4. Jonathan MCKAIN, 5. Osama MALIK (14. Cameron WATSON 75'), 8. ISAIAS, 9. Sergio CIRIO, 13. Steve LUSTICA, 18. Mi-chael ZULLO, 21. Tarek ELRICH, 22. Fabio FERREIRA (25. Ryan KITTO 78'), 24. Brent MCGRATH (17. Awer MABIL 59')

Substitutes not used: 20. Paul IZZO (Gk), 23. Jordan ELSEY  
Yellow cards: Malik  
Red cards: Nil

# All That Glitters Is Not Goals

By Adrian Deans

The Mariners had only 35% pos-session in this game, but how they didn't win by at least four is beyond me.

It just goes to show that statistics are sometimes completely mean-ingless. With only 35% possession, the Mariners managed well over ten shots on target with Adelaide having hardly any shots at all with double the possession. Put that in your pipes and smoke it, Egg-heads!

And for all that, Adelaide might easily have gotten away with a point. They did have a couple of excellent chances, especially late, but they shouldn't have been in the game. The Mariners profligacy may well have cost them, and un-less they sharpen up in front of goal they will certainly pay the price against the stronger teams.

The mystery is, the Mariners have a strike-force that would be the envy of most: Duke, Flores, Simon – supported by Fitzgerald and McGlinchey – and last sea-son's golden boot winner Daniel McBreen returning from China. It's an embarrassment of riches – embarrassed by the fact they could only muster one goal from so many simple chances.

Mariners fans will thank heavens for Nick Fitzgerald who scored in the second minute from one of the hardest chances of the game! He was put away by the excellent Mitchell Duke, and after cutting back on to his left boot, still had a lot of work to do before slotting it through a forest of players into the bottom far corner. Galekovic will be disappointed, but he must have seen it very late.

In the first half, the combination between Flores, McGlinchey and Duke was quite outstanding, de-spite the fact that you could sense they weren't quite on each other's wavelength just yet. I expect these three players to be frequently men-tioned in the same sentence in



Mariners players mob Nick Fitzgerald after the attacking ace scored the decisive goal.

Season 9. Flores, in particular, put Duke away on several occasions and the budding Socceroo will want to improve his touch toward goal if he hopes to be on the plane to Brazil next year.

As for Adelaide – 65% posses-sion and virtually no chances. Jo-sep Gombau expressed himself to be happy with the way his team played, and a coach has to say that in public. Sometimes. But how he can be happy with his players' choices in the final third is beyond

me. They didn't believe, so didn't make the runs. Creating chances in the final third is all about move-ment and Adelaide were strangely reluctant to run into the small spac-es that potentially make the differ-ence. They played like defenders.

Of course, the Mariners defence didn't make it easy for Adelaide. Once again it is a tribute to Gra-ham Arnold, the way he sets up his team so effectively. The Mariners seemed content to let Adelaide have the ball in the less dangerous

parts of the pitch – only concen-trating their attention when the ball came towards the final third. Sains-bury, once again, was brilliant and his last ditch tackle on Sergio Cirio after an incredible run through the heart of the Mariners' defence pre-vented Adelaide's best chance of the match – which coming in the 88th minute might have really pun-ished the Mariners for their poor finishing.

Having said all that, Adelaide bad-ly missed Jeronimo and I expect

Match Stats		
20	Tackles	17
15	Total Shots	7
302	Total Passes	614
33.8%	Possession	66.2%
7	Corners	3
3	Offsides	4
13	Fouls committed	12
<b>Man of the Match</b>		
Marcos Flores (Mariners)		



Man of the match playmaker Marcos Flores shows his guile on the ball as he manoeuvres and swerves through oncoming traffic.



Sydney FC



0

Western Sydney



2

Match Details

**Sydney Fc**  
**Western Sydney Wanderers 2**  
(12' La Rocca, 26' Ono)  
Allianz Stadium  
Crowd: 40,388  
Referee: Strebre Delovski.

**Sydney Fc:** 20. Vedran Janjetovic (Gk), 2. Sebastian Ryall, 3. Marc Warren, 6. Nikola Petkovic, 11. Richard Garcia, 13. Tiago Calvano, 14. Mitchell Mallia (46' Yairo Yau), 16. Joel Chianese, 19. Nick Carle(C), 22. Ali Abbas, 23. Rhyan Grant (40' Matthew Thompson).  
Subs Not Used: 1. Ivan Necevski (Gk), 5. Matthew Jurman, 27. Christopher Naumoff.

Yellow Cards:- Chianese 40', Warren 69', Abbas 73', Carle 88'.

**Western Sydney Wanderers:** 1. Ante Covic (Gk), 3. Adam D'apuzzo, 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 5. Michael Beauchamp(C), 6. Jerome Polenz, 8. Mateo Poljak, 9. Tomi Juric (77' Shannon Cole), 17. Youssouf Hersi (46' Brendon Santalab), 18. Iacopo La Rocca, 19. Mark Bridge, 21. Shinji Ono (86' Tahj Minniecon).  
Subs Not Used: 20. Jerrad Tyson (Gk), 23. Jason Trifiro.

Yellow Cards:- D'apuzzo 30', Polenz 53', Juric 62', Bridge 63', Santalab 70'.

# Wanderers take Derby Day honours

By Bryson Ferreira

The Western Sydney Wanderers claimed the Sydney derby in front of a sell-out Allianz Stadium on Saturday night, against a toothless Sky Blues team.

The red half of the bumper crowd enjoyed first half goals from Iacopo La Rocca and Japanese marquee man Shinji Ono, in what proved to be a match-winning 45 minutes by Western Sydney.

The bumper crowd went toe-to-toe right from the start, with the Red and Black Block and Cove emulating an atmosphere you'd expect in Europe or South America.

Sydney FC were forced into two changes from the team that started against Brisbane Roar a week earlier with injured duo Alessandro Del Piero and Pedj Bojic replaced by Mitch Mallia and Tiago Calvano.

The opening exchanges were nervous and tense with Sydney passing the ball well and the Wanderers looking increasingly dangerous in transition.

The Wanderers then took the lead on the 12th minute after well-placed free kick from Shinji Ono deep in the right channel was allowed to float across the Sky Blues box.

Iacapo La Rocca out-muscled Sebastian Ryall to head home from the six-yard line and give the Wanderers a 0-1 lead.

Sydney continued to hold the ball well, but were unable to create enough in the final third in front of a resilient Wanderers defensive line and equally hard-working midfield.

On the 26th minute the Wanderers were in again.

Shinji Ono attempted a deft flick over the Sydney defense that failed, but the resulting ricochet landed at his feet and he showed his class once again to slot home from close range.

Sydney FC looked the brighter of the two teams in the early exchanges of the second half but despite their weight of possession, were still unable to create any meaningful chances or even force a save from Ante Covic.

Sydney's best chance of the second period came in the 77th minute



Shinji Ono scores form the edge of the box to put the icing on the cake for the Wanderers in the Sydney Derby.

as Yairo Yau hit the side netting.

Nick Carle tracked back tackling Shinji Ono before turning and advancing towards the byline.

He whipped in a deep cross that found Yau unmarked at the far post who shaped for the volley but hit it wide.

Ante Covic was then called into action for the first time in the 82nd minute after the first shot on target for Sydney FC.

In fact, after not having one the week before, it was the first time the Sky Blues had troubled a keeper for 172 minutes.

There was certainly no lack of effort from the Sydney FC, who passed the ball well and had the bulk of possession, but were unable to penetrate a hungry, irrepressible

Wanderers team who defended from the front.

The Sydney FC defense also looked vulnerable in transition at times, and will have a long season if they can't address the basic defensive issues that lead to both goals.

Nothing can take away the performance of the Wanderers however, whose speed and accuracy on the counter attack was second to none.

If not for some wasted chances in the second half the score might have been far more demoralizing for the home team.

Jerome Polenz was unlucky not to get his second goal for the club in two weeks after a cheeky attempt from a free kick that hit the post.

The right hand side of Polenz and Hersi were as dominant as ever,

taking advantage of Marc Warren, who's had a tough start to his A-League career.


Western Sydney will be sweating on the fitness of their wide man Hersi, who did not return for the second half after injuring his foot.

Sydney FC will also be awaiting news of midfield workhorse, Rhyan Grant who limped off in the first half.

The Wanderers have gone second on the ladder and head to Wanderland for the visit of Adelaide, which promises to be another cracker.

The Sky Blues will head to Perth next week looking to change their fortunes before another bumper crowd is expected when Melbourne Victory visit Allianz Stadium for the Big Blue.

Matthew Smith heads home the opening goal to set up the start of the 4-0 drubbing.

	Match Stats	
15	Tackles	23
9	Total Shots	10
436	Total Passes	287
60%	Possession	40%
8	Corners	3
1	Offsides	3
20	Fouls committed	19

**Man of the Match**  
Ivan Franjic (Brisbane)



To the victors the spoils! Western Sydney Wanderers players soak up the atmosphere with their huge army of fans.



Wellington Phoenix



0

Newcastle Jets



0

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 0  
Newcastle Jets 0  
Napier, New Zealand

**Wellington Phoenix Squad:** 1.Glen MOSS (GK), 2.Manny MUSCAT, 3.Reece CAIRA, 5.Michael BOXALL, 6.Josh BRINDELL-SOUTH, 7.Leo BERTOS, 8.Paul IFILL, 9.Kenny CUNNINGHAM, 10.Stein HUYSEGEMS, 11.Jeremy BROCKIE, 13.Albert RIERA, 15.Jason HICKS, 16.Louis FENTON, 17.Vince LIA, 18.Ben SIGMUND, 21.Carlos HERNANDEZ, 22.Andrew DURANTE (c), 30.Jacob SPOONLEY (GK).

**Newcastle Jets Squad:** 1.Mark BIRIGHITTI (GK), 2.Scott NEVILLE, 3.Taylor REGAN, 4.Kew JALIENS, 5.Ben KANTAROVSKI, 6.Zenon CARAVELLA, 7.Andrew HOOLE, 8.Ruben ZADKOVICH, 10.Nathan BURNS, 11.Craig GOODWIN, 12.Connor CHAPMAN, 15.Josh BRILLANTE, 16.Jacob PEPPER, 18.James BROWN, 19.Michael BRIDGES, 20.Ben KENNEDY, 21.Sam GALLAWAY, 22.Adam TAGGART.

	Match Stats	
26	Tackles	18
13	Total Shots	19
412	Total Passes	343
53.2%	Possession	46.8%
4	Corners	8
4	Offsides	7
10	Fouls committed	14

Man of the Match  
MARK BIRIGHITTI (Jets)

# Nix and Jets draw blanks in Napier

By Joe Gallagher

Ernie Merrick's style of play is unlikely to yield many 0-0 draws for the Wellington Phoenix.

But on Sunday that's precisely what it delivered, as the Phoenix crawled to a goalless stalemate against fellow strugglers Newcastle Jets.

It was a match that few could argue was uninspiring, but cosmetically will be of concern to the Phoenix who travelled to the sunny Hawke's Bay for the first time in a bid to tap into a new market for the franchise and the A-League.

In the first Phoenix match to be played in Napier, Merrick looked to hit the ground running following last Sunday's encouraging 1-1 draw in Parramatta.

Instead what rhythm he had dictated was unsettled early on by Gary van Egmond's side, who were content to press high up the park in order to disrupt the Phoenix's flow.

When Newcastle won the ball, they found themselves in particularly strong positions out wide, and it must be said that was their final ball better on the day, their 'Goals For' column might have been more substantial.

In what is becoming a trend for Wellington this season, Costa Rican midfielder Carlos Hernandez was at the heart of everything going forward. He was first to rattle the woodwork in the opening exchanges, cutting in-field from a quick Stein Huysegems throw-in and smacking a drive into the crossbar. The effort provided glimpses of his potential as a goalscorer and a throwback to his successful days with the Melbourne Victory.

Josh Brillante blazed over when given the chance, and both Andrew Hoole and Nathan Burns tested the reflexes of Glen Moss, but Newcastle's best three moments of the first half came in a period of three seconds. First, Ruben Zadkovich's free-kick hammered the frame of the goal, before an expert save from Moss and a desperate lunge of Leo Bertos's left boot prevented the Jets from poking home the rebound.

As the first period wound to close, Huysegems could have put the 'hosts' in the lead twice. First, his close-range header was saved brilliantly by Mark Birighitti, who could only watch as the Belgian striker's glancing effort trickled



Two hard men of football, Ruben Zadkovic (Jets) and Manny Muscat (Phoenix), strive to win the midfield battle.

narrowly wide moments later.

Birighitti and Moss might have been to thank for the scoreline staying blank at half-time, and their strong performances continued after the break. In an attempt to add strength to a struggling midfield, Merrick replaced Paul Ifill with the Spanish paramedic-turned professional footballer Albert Riera for the second half.

While Newcastle's dominance in the middle third began to wane, large periods of the second half were scrappy. Referee Adam Kersey came close to losing control of the fixture for long periods

that will be more memorable for both sides remonstrating with the officials than for goalmouth action.

When the teams were able to string a few passes together, Andrew Durante forced a fine block from Birighitti when played in by Hernandez's free-kick. Seconds later, the goalkeeper was beaten to the ball but the Costa Rican's scuffed attempt to ram home the scraps rolled slowly and agonisingly onto the base of the post.

Burns and Huysegems had chances to break the deadlock, but while the former's effort was straight at Moss, the Phoenix striker was well marshaled wide and struck

comfortably over the bar. A header from James Brown was too easy for Moss, and the Jets could only thump high and wide when given a golden chance late on.

It became increasingly obvious to a growingly restless crowd of just over 9,000 – small enough to question whether the A-League will ever return to Napier – that the match was petering out to a 0-0 draw.

And that is how it ended; Wellington unable to capitalise on their strong performance last week and Newcastle now on the cusp of entering their sixth hour without a goal this season.

What will compound the frustration for Merrick and van Egmond will be knowledge that Perth Glory's win in the later fixture consigned the Jets and Phoenix to the bottom two spots on the A-League ladder.

It doesn't get any easier in the short-term: Wellington travel to Melbourne, where they have never won, and Newcastle return home to face a visit from their cross-town rivals and last season's champions on Saturday night.



The chase is on between Jeremy Brockie (Phoenix) and Dutch star Kew Jaliens (Jets).



Andrew Durante goes close for the Phoenix but Jets keeper Mark Birighitti is at his acrobatic best.



Perth Glory



Melbourne heart



Match Details

**Perth Glory 1 (Maclaren 50')**  
**Melbourne Heart**

Crowd: 13,856 @ Nib Stadium  
Match Details  
Hyundai A-League Round Three  
Perth Glory 1 (Jamie Maclaren 51')  
Melbourne Heart Fc 0  
Nib Stadium, Perth  
Referee: Kris Griffith-Jones  
Attendance: 13,856

**Perth Glory** - Gk Danny Vukovic, 4 Ryan Edwards, 5 Steve Pantelidis, 7 Jacob Burns, 8 Ryo Nagai (17 Chris Harold 76'), 10 Jamie Maclaren (20 Daniel De Silva 72'), 14 Steven McGarry, 16 Sidnei Sciola Moraes, 21 Scott Jamieson, 23 Michael Thwaite, 24 Matthew Davies  
Substutes Not Used: Rgk Jack Duncan, 3 Brandon O'neill, 6 Cameron Edwards  
Yellow Cards: Nil  
Red Cards: Nil

**Melbourne Heart** - Gk Andrew Redmayne, 3 Robbie Wielaert, 8 Massimo Muroccca, 7 Iain Ramsay, 11 Michael Mifsud, 14 Golgol Mebrahtu (23 Mate Duganzdic 76'), 15 David Williams, 16 Aziz Behich (21 Stefan Mauk 86'), 17 Jason Hoffman, 24 Patrick Kisnorbo (6 Patrick Gerhardt 52'), 25 Andrea Migliorini  
Substitutes Not Used: Rgk Tando Velaphi, 28 Paolo Retre  
Yellow Cards: Nil  
Red Cards: Nil

# Young-gun Maclaren gets the Glory

By Peter Simcox

A goal from young Socceroos striker Jamie Maclaren six minutes into the second half, has given Perth Glory a 1-0 win against Melbourne Heart at the nib Stadium on Sunday. The 20-year-old fired home at the second attempt to open his account in the A-League and kick start the Glory's home campaign in style in front of 13, 856 supporters at the clubs re-vamped home stadium.

The win was well deserved, but the home side made hard work of it, with the woodwork coming to the Heart's rescue on three occasions and the poor finishing nearly came back to haunt them late. David Williams' shot in stoppage time looked destined for the back of the net but Danny Vukovic produced a stunning one-handed save to deny him.

The Glory made two changes to the side that drew 0-0 at Newcastle last week with 18-year-old defender Matthew Davies making his A-League debut in place of the injured Josh Risdon at right back, while Socceroos central defender Michael Thwaite returned for Brandon O'Neill, who dropped to the bench. The Heart made one change to the side that dew 2-2 with Central Coast Mariners last week with Maltese international striker Michael Mifsud making his A-League debut, coming in to the starting side for Mate Duganzdic, who dropped to the bench.

It was a great day for football in the West at kick off and it was the home side that went close to the opener after only six minutes. Brazilian Sidnei was given far too much space in the penalty area from Scott Jamieson's corner, but his shot on the turn crashed off the crossbar. The Heart hit back and a completely unmarked Patrick Kisnorbo headed wide at the back post moments later, the big defender should have hit the target.

The Glory was getting on top, with



Jamie Maclaren shows he's got a real nose for goal and shows the promises of many more to come.

Sidnei and Jamieson causing problems down the left for the Heart. Jamieson went close on 25 minutes his long-range volley was cleared off the line by the alert Kisnorbo, and ten minutes later his curling effort beat Andrew Redmayne but again the woodwork came to the Heart's rescue.

It was one way traffic as the Glory looked for the opener and when Sidnei raced clear down the left, his cross picked out Ryo Nagai at the back post but the Japanese winger was unable to get to the low cross with just Redmayne to beat.

The home side made a perfect start to the second half and they were ahead on 51 minutes. Maclaren won the challenge with Kisnorbo

in the middle of the park and raced clear. Redmayne saved the strikers initial shot, but Maclaren reacted well to fire home the rebound and celebrated his first ever A-League goal with the fans from The Shed.

It was a double blow for Heart, with Kisnorbo forced off with a knee injury in the lead up to the goal and he was replaced by Patrick Gerhardt. The goal forced the Heart to press forward and Italian midfielder Andrea Migliorini's shot flashed inches wide on the hour.

Maclaren went close to a second goal on 65 minutes, when he was sent racing down the left by Ryan Edwards' through ball, but his low shot from a tight angle whistled

wide of the far post. The Heart pressed late and Golgol Mebrahtu was denied by Vukovic, after good work from Migliorini on 70 minutes and deep into injury time they almost nicked a point. Williams picked the ball up 20-yards from goal, and he powerful shot was pushed around the post by Vukovic at full length.

Glory's new signing William Gallas took to twitter after the game to congratulate his new side on the win, while coach Alistair Edwards was delighted for his young striker and his performance. "It's not good for Jamie to get the goal on his home league debut, but also his contribution to the team is im-

mense. It's great that one of the best young players in the country is playing for Perth Glory," he said.

	Match Stats	
19	Tackles	19
13	Total Shots	10
483	Total Passes	325
58.9%	Possession	41.9%
6	Corners	9
1	Offsides	2
6	Fouls committed	17

**GW Man of the Match**  
MICHAEL THWAITE (Perth Glory)



Michael Thwaite (Glory) beats Heart's Maltese international striker Michael Mifsud to the ball.



Perth's Steve Pantelidis makes some giant strides as Heart's Golgol Mebrahtu closes in.

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## Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante COVIC (GK)  
2. Shannon COLE  
3. Adam D'APUZZO  
4. Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY  
5. Michael BEAUCHAMP (c)  
6. Jerome POLENZ  
7. Labinot HALITI  
8. Mateo POLJAK  
9. Tomi JURIC  
10. Aaron MOOY  
11. Brendon SANTALAB  
12. Tahj MINNIECON  
13. Matthew SPIRANOVIC  
18. Jacopo LA ROCCA  
19. Mark BRIDGE  
20. Jerrad TYSON (GK)  
21. Shinji ONO  
23. Jason TRIFIRO  
\*\*Two to be omitted\*\*

Ins: 13. Matthew SPIRANOVIC (promoted), 23. Jason TRIFIRO (promoted), 10. Aaron MOOY (returns from injury)  
Outs: 17. Youssouf HERSI (foot – 1 week)  
Unavailable: 15. Yianni Perkatis (knee – 1 week), 16. Josh Barresi (leg – 1 week), 14. Kwabena Appiah (leg – 1 week)

## West Syd Wanderers v Adelaide Utd

Fri Nov 1 Parramatta Stdm 7:30 PM

## Battle for Red Supremacy

Saman Zaiei

Anyone who watched the first Adelaide United game will testify to their hunger and determination to attack when they beat Perth 3-1 at home.

The Wanderers will have to be at their best defensive best.

Many eyes will be on former Wanderer Tarik Elrich who said "It's my first game against my old club there and there is no bigger team to play against than Western Sydney – great fans, a great style of football, and with what we're trying to achieve here as a football club I think it will be a good hit out... I'm looking forward to it, back playing in front of my friends and family for Adelaide United." Close attention will also be on 18 year young midfielder Awer Mabil who has been in strong form so far and in front of him Jeronimo Neumann, Adelaide's and the Leagues top scorer so far.

Over to the Wanderers will be full of confidence after their performance in the Sydney derby, the largest crowd ever attracted in such a game, in front of 40,388 fans. Still confident to take a shot, their ten shots saw two of them in the back of the net and this upcoming game against Adelaide with Juric up front, midfielders Hersi, Ono,



Bridge and Mooy and defenders like Polenz who are not afraid to shoot, Wanderers will want to repeat what they saw in their last two games against their opponent, nothing but domination. Particularly in the 6-1 defeat there was only confusion on the faces of the defenders and midfielders and pure frustration from goalkeeper Galekovic and the Wanderers, hopefully with new tactical and strategic plays, will want to see a big defeat. Does possession matter to the Wanderers? Maybe not a lot, considering in their last game they only held 40% of the ball, but won the game without conceding a single goal. Does this speak to say something to Adelaide? Most certainly does!

They will probably take away from it that they need to be careful in all thirds of the pitch, they will need to be aware down the right with Polenz and Hersi, in the middle with Ono and Juric, and in defence with Beachump and Covic who will stubbornly stand strong looking to continue to keep a clean sheet.

Wanderers will also have a lot to be on the lookout for with the likes of Bruce Djite and Adelaide's youngsters who have a lot prove on the pitch. Being at Parramatta stadium, Western Sydney will have the home crowd advantage to work with, which might just see them win by a slender lead, however having said that, Adelaide are looking sharp, consistent and hungry in

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Wanderers 1.50 Draw 4.50 Adelaide 7.65	Played 3 Wanderers 2 Adelaide 1 Draw 0
Referee: Jarred Gillett	

Radio Broadcast: 702 ABC Sydney, ABC Local Radio NSW, 666 ABC Canberra, 891 ABC Adelaide, ABC Local Radio South Australia, Grandstand Digital and Online/ Mobile phone app. SBS Radio.

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #WSWvADL

**Kiss of Death  
Wanderers 2-1 Adelaide**

all areas of the pitch.

Last season's meetings between these two teams provided plenty of goals. The first game went in Adelaide's favour with a slim 1-0 margin, but what a turn around it took in weeks 12 and 14, with the largest goal deficit Adelaide experienced all season, losing 6-1 and then 4-2.

The prediction for this one is a tough one! I would really prefer to predict results for the all of the other fixtures, but given this is a duty, I will have to say 3-2 Adelaide's way. But remember, this is football. Anything can happen.



## Adelaide Utd Line Up

1. Eugene GALEKOVIC (GK) (c)  
3. Nigel BOOGAARD  
4. Jon McKAIN  
5. Osama MALIK  
7. JERONIMO  
8. ISAIAS  
9. Sergio CIRIO  
10. Marcelo CARRUSCA  
13. Steven LUSTICA  
14. Cameron WATSON  
17. Awer MABIL  
18. Michael ZULLO  
20. Paul IZZO (GK)  
21. Tarek ELRICH  
22. Fabio FERREIRA  
23. Jordan ELSEY, 24. Brent McGRATH  
\*\*\*One to be omitted\*\*\*

Ins: 7. JERONIMO (returns from injury), 10. Marcelo CARRUSCA (returns from injury)

Outs: 25. Ryan KITTO (returns to Youth Team)

Unavailable: 16. Daniel BOWLES (ankle – 6 weeks)



## Glory Line Up

1. Daniel VUKOVIC (GK)  
2. Jack CLISBY  
3. Brandon O'NEILL  
4. Ryan EDWARDS  
5. Steve PANTELIDIS  
6. Cameron EDWARDS  
7. Jacob BURNS (c)  
8. Ryo NAGAI  
9. Shane SMELTZ  
10. Jamie MACLAREN  
14. Steven McGARRY  
16. Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES  
17. Chris HAROLD  
18. Jack DUNCAN  
20. Daniel DE SILVA  
21. Scott JAMIESON  
23. Michael THWAITE  
24. Matthew DAVIES  
\*\*\*Two to be omitted\*\*\*

Ins: 2. Jack CLISBY (promoted), 9. Shane SMELTZ (promoted),

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 11. Adrian ZAHRA

## Perth Glory v Sydney FC

Sat Nov 2 NIB stadium 5:30 PM

## Glory look to give Sydney the Blues

Peter Simcox

Sydney FC makes the long trip to the West this weekend, to take on Perth Glory at the nib Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

They will be looking to turn around a two game losing streak, which started with an embarrassing 4-0 defeat against Brisbane Roar in round two, followed by a 2-0 defeat in the Sydney derby against Western Sydney Wanderers, and a win in the West will give the Sky Blues a much need lift.

Coach Frank Farina will hope to have Brett Emerton, Pedj Bojic, Terry McFlynn and Alessandro Del Piero back for the trip, but all face fitness tests, while Corey Gameiro (knee) and Rhyan Grant (knee) will miss the trip. The loss of Del Piero has been a massive blow for the Sky Blues, the Italian talisman is vital to their game plan, and Farina will be hoping the midfielder can play some part of the match, probably off the bench, but he will not rush him back. "We'll assess it during the week but (the long flight) is not an ideal one," Farina said. "We have to be realistic; we know Alessandro's not going to play 27 games straight for us this year, he's coming up to 30-years-old, that's reality and we have to adjust to that."

Ryo Nagai limped off with a leg injury in Perth Glory's 1-0 win



against Melbourne Heart last week but is expected to play, but on the downside Josh Risdon will miss another game after suffering a knee injury against Newcastle Jets in round 2. Shane Smeltz is back in training after his hip injury, but with Jamie Maclaren opening his A-League account last week against Melbourne Heart, Edwards will probably give the New Zealand international a few weeks to get match fit.

The Glory defeated the Sky Blues 3-0 in a pre-season friendly earlier this year at Jubilee Park, with Jamie Maclaren scoring two and Sidnei netting his first goal for the club

on Australian soil. Michael Twaite marked Del Piero in that game and the defender, who made a successful return last week against the Heart, is hoping the Italian Maestro will be available for this weekend's clash.

"We had a bit of banter going on between each other, his English is quite good now," Thwaite joked. "You definitely want to play against the best players in the world and he's still currently one of those, so hopefully he does play," Thwaite said.

The Sky Blues do have a good record in WA, winning five in the last 13 games, but last season the

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Glory 1.85 Draw 3.60 Sydney FC 4.61	Played 24 Glory 5 Sydney FC 11 Draw 8
Referee: Ben Williams	

Radio Broadcast: 720 ABC Perth, ABC Local Radio Western Australia, 702 ABC Sydney, ABC Local Radio NSW, Grandstand Digital Perth and Sydney Online/Mobile phone app. Sport FM (Perth)

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #PERvSYD

**Kiss of Death  
Glory 3-2 Sydney FC**

Glory came out on top 2-1. Chris Harold opened the scoring, before Del Piero scored a stunning long-range shot to bring Sydney level. The winner came from Smeltz, and the Sky Blues ended with 10 men when Fabio Alves was sent off.

The battle in the middle of the park will be vital with Nick Carle and WA-born Richard Garcia up against Steven McGarry and Ryan Edwards, who impressed last week on his home debut. Sydnei was outstanding against the Heart and Sebastian Ryall and Nikola Petkovic will have to be on their toes to subdue the supply from the Brazilian.



## Sydney FC Line Up

1. Ivan NECEVSKI (GK)  
2. Seb RYALL  
3. Mark WARREN  
5. Matt JURMAN  
6. Nikola PETKOVIC  
7. Brett EMERTON  
10. Alessandro DEL PIERO (c)  
11. Richard GARCIA  
13. Tiago CALVANO  
16. Joel CHIANESE  
19. Nicky CARLE  
20. Vedran JANJETOVIC (GK)  
21. Yairo YAU  
22. Ali ABBAS  
27. Chris NAUMOFF  
28. Matt THOMPSON  
29. Alec UROSEVSKI.  
\*\*\*One to be omitted\*\*\*

Ins: 7. Brett EMERTON (return from Injury), 10. Alessandro DEL PIERO (return from Injury), 29. Alec UROSEVSKI (promoted).

Outs: 14. Mitchell MALLIA (Not Selected), 23. Rhyan GRANT (knee – long term),  
Unavailable: Peter TRIANTIS (groin – long term), Terry ANTONIS (thigh – long term), Corey GAMEIRO (knee – 2 weeks), Predrag BOJIC (calf – 1 week).

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### Jets Line Up

1.Mark BIRIGHITTI (GK)  
2.Scott NEVILLE  
3.Taylor REGAN  
4.Kew JALIENS  
5.Ben KANTAROVSKI  
6.Zenon CARAVELLA  
7.Andrew HOOLE  
8.Ruben ZADKOVICH (c)  
9.Emile HESKEY  
10.Nathan BURNS  
12.Connor CHAPMAN  
15.Josh BRILLANTE  
16.Jacob PEPPER  
18.James BROWN  
19.Michael BRIDGES  
20.Ben KENNEDY (GK)  
21.Sam GALLAWAY  
22.Adam TAGGART  
\*\*\*Two to be omitted\*\*\*

Ins: 9.Emile HESKEY (returns from injury), 3.Taylor REGAN (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Mitch COOPER (knee – four weeks).

## Newcastle Jets v CC Mariners

Sat Nov 2 Hunter Stadium 7:30 PM

# All Change but the F3 Rivalry stays the same

Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets face the Central Coast Mariners this Saturday night at Hunter Stadium with an air of change wafting through the air.

Graham Arnold's men will travel up the newly named M1 (The new road name for the F3) with a squad almost unrecognisable from that which secured victory in last season's grand final.

Gone are the likes of keeper Mat Ryan, talismanic Central defender Patrick Zwaanswijk, workaholic right-back Pedj Bojic and pacy midfielder Oliver Bozanic.

The Mariners have drafted in players like the mercurial Marcos Flores and the returning son Matt Simon in a bid to cover their many losses.

As a result the Mariners have put in several disjointed performances this season and Arnold believes that they are currently only functioning at about 50% of their capabilities. Which would make you think that they are headed for the F3 (will never call it the M1) derby at the worst possible time. But in reality, they are facing a club



with even more issues.

The Jets are largely struggling at the moment, despite an improved performance on the weekend against Wellington in Napier.

The fact remains that the Jets have not scored a goal in 270 minutes of A-League football this season, with their last strike coming from Michael Bridges in round 25 last year.

One of the more worrying aspects for the home side is that they are really struggling to create chances, with their attacking play being described in numerous terms, including 'constipated' by Fox Sports commentator Andy Harper.

In good news for the home side, their English marquee man Emile Heskey is looking likely to play

some part on the weekend after overcoming the knee injury he picked up in the trial game against Melbourne Victory in pre-season.

Having the Englishman back in some capacity is only good news though if the rest of the team can create chances for the big man to score, which will be tough against a traditionally well organised and disciplined Mariners side.

One of the players who has looked likely is new Jets signing Nathan Burns.

Burns had limited football at his previous club in Korea's Incheon United and as a result is slowly finding his feet again in top level football.

He did show promising signs in the match against the Phoenix and looked the most likely to threaten

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Jets 4.50 Draw 3.60 Mariners 1.86	Played 29 Jets 9 Mariners 10 Draw 10

Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones

Radio Broadcast: 1233 ABC  
Newcastle, 92.5 ABC Central Coast  
Grandstand Digital and Online/  
Mobile phone app. Coast FM  
(Central Coast).

**Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #f3Derby**

**Kiss of Death  
Jets 0-1 Mariners**

across the whole match.

Burns and company simply have to improve on their efforts from last week.

The fact is that the Mariners are far better organised than the Phoenix and are able to pick off teams attacking play before springing on the counter with the pace and guile of players like Flores, Mitchell Duke and the ever underrated Michael McGlinchey.

Newcastle have been struggling to break down less well organised sides and it is for that reason that I can't see anything but a tight Mariners victory, which will ramp up the pressure further on the under siege Jets coach Gary Van Egmond.



### Mariners Line Up

1.Justin PASFIELD (Gk)  
3.Joshua ROSE  
4.Marcel SEIP  
5.Zachary ANDERSON  
6.Brent GRIFFITHS  
7.John HUTCHINSON (C)  
8.Nick MONTGOMERY  
9.Mitchell DUKE  
10.Marcos FLORES  
11.Nick FITZGERALD  
12.Liam REDDY  
14.Michael MCGLINCHY  
15.Storm ROUX  
16.Trent SAINSBURY  
17.Anthony CACERES  
18.Michael NEILL  
19.Matt SIMON  
21.Mile STERJOVSKI  
\*\*\*Two to be omitted\*\*\*

Ins: 4.Marcel SEIP (returns from injury), 17.Anthony Caceres (returns from concussion), 18.Michael NEILL (promoted)

Outs: 24.Jesse CURRAN (returns to Foxtel NYL)

Unavailable: 2.Daniel MCBREEN (returning from China), 13.Hayden MORTON (knee – one week), 23.Adam KWASNIK (groin – one week)



### Roar Line Up

1.Michael THEO (gk)  
2.Matthew SMITH (c)  
3.Shane STEFANUTTO  
5.Ivan FRANJIC  
10.HENRIQUE  
12.Julius DOE  
13.Jade NORTH  
14.Diogo FERREIRA  
15.James DONACHIE  
17.Matt McKAY  
18.Luke BRATTAN  
19.Jack HINGERT  
29.Matthew ACTON (gk)  
22.Thomas BROICH  
23.Dimitri PETRATOS  
26.Corey BROWN  
28.Brandon BORRELLO  
29.Kwame YEBOAH  
\*\*\*Two to be omitted\*\*\*

Ins: Julius DOE (promoted), Diogo FERREIRA (promoted), Brandon BORRELLO (promoted)

Out: Liam MILLER (calf – two weeks)

Unavailable: Besart BERISHA (hamstring – one week), George LAMBADARDIS (knee – season)

## Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Heart

Sun Nov 3 Suncorp Stadium 5:00 PM

# Injuries Affect Heart Affair

Jarrold Ellis

With only three rounds of the A-League having passed Brisbane Roar's decision to submit only a 20 man squad for the season is already starting to be questioned.

Injuries to Liam Miller, Besart Berisha and Shane Stefanutto will make for an understrength starting eleven when the Roar face Melbourne Heart at Suncorp Stadium this Sunday.

Stefanutto was the latest to add his name to the injury list, failing to complete a training session midweek. Off-season recruit Miller faces up to a month on the sidelines after tearing his calf against Melbourne Victory whilst Berisha is still another week away from a return, Mike Mulvey not wanting to risk the long term fitness of his Albanian star.

Brisbane's injury list doesn't stop there, George Lambadaridis is out for the season after knee surgery, while striker Kofi Danning won't be available until December at the earliest because of his own knee reconstruction.

That leaves the Roar with just 16 members of their A-League squad available for Sunday's match and necessitates that Mulvey restructure his side.

Should Stefanutto not recover in time for kick-off Corey Brown is the obvious choice to make his first start of the season, whilst up front Kwame Yeboah will continue to carry the load left by Berisha.



The absence of Liam Miller presents more of a problem and could well see Thomas Broich moved to a central role. That kind of change would allow for Henrique or Dmitri Petratos to start out wide.

In recent seasons an injury to Brisbane's central midfield would mean a starting berth for Massimo Muroccca, but come this Sunday the diminutive midfielder will be lining up in red and white for his first return to Suncorp Stadium since his offseason departure.

His new side will have little sympathy for Brisbane's injury worries, with several key players for Heart set to miss extended game time. Patrick Kisnorbo was added to

their casualty list last weekend and likely won't return for up to three weeks after suffering cartilage damage in his right knee.

Harry Kewell is set to be absent once again, the club reporting that a whiplash injury suffered in the first round will keep him out.

Along with the return of Muroccca the match will mark the first appearance of Michael Mifsud in Brisbane, the "Maltese Messi" having made his A-League debut against Perth Glory last weekend. Mifsud struggled to find any clear-cut chances against Perth and may find opportunities just as rare against Brisbane with Heart expected to sit back and exploit the

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Victory 1.57 Draw 3.95 Phoenix 6.00	Played 9 Roar 4 Heart 3 Draw 2

Referee: Lucien Laverdure

Radio Broadcast: 612 ABC Brisbane, ABC Local Radio Queensland, 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Local Radio Victoria, Grandstand Digital Brisbane and Melbourne Online/Mobile phone app

**Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #BRivMHT**

**Kiss of Death  
Roar 1-1 Heart**

counter.

With the pace and skill of David Williams, Mate Dugandzic and Gol Gol Mebrahtu, John Aloisi's side have the ideal personnel to employ a counter attacking game plan. Brisbane's defence has been known to struggle against quick counters and balls played in behind and given Berisha's absence should Melbourne snatch the lead they may find themselves heading home with something to show for their efforts.

That said Melbourne Heart has struggled away from since the club's inception and the trip up to Brisbane isn't easy for any A-League side. Injuries to key players from both sides brings an air of unpredictability to this match and Heart fans should be hopeful of picking up a rare point away from home.



### Heart Line Up

1.Andrew REDMAYNE (GK)  
3.Robbie WIELAERT  
5.Sam MITCHINSON  
6.Patrick GERHARDT  
7.Iain RAMSAY  
8.Massimo MURDOCCA  
10.Harry Kewell (Captain)  
11.Michael MIFSUD  
14.Golgol MEBRAHTU  
15.David WILLIAMS  
16.Aziz BEHICH  
17.Jason HOFFMAN  
19.Benjamin GARUCCIO  
20.Tando VELAPHI (GK)  
21.Stefan MAUK  
22.Nick KALMAR  
23.Mate DUGANDZIC  
25.Andrea MIGLIORINI  
\*\*\*Two to be omitted\*\*\*

Ins: 10.Harry KEWELL (returns from injury), 5.Sam MITCHINSON (promoted), 19.Benjamin GARUCIO (promoted), 22.Nick KALMAR (promoted)

Outs: 28.Paulo RETRE (omitted), 24.Patrick KISNORBO (knee – 3 weeks)

Unavailable: 4.Orlando ENGELAAR (Fractured tibia – long-term), 9.Dylan MACALLISTER (Hamstring – 3-5 weeks), 13.Jonatan GERMANO (Hamstring – three weeks),

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### Victory Line Up

1.Nathan COE (GK)  
2.Pablo CONTRERAS  
3.Adama TRAORE  
4.Nick ANSELL  
5.Mark MILLIGAN ©  
6.Leigh BROXHAM  
7.Gui FINKLER  
9.Kosta BARBAROUSES  
10.Archie THOMPSON  
11.Connor PAIN  
13.Andrew NABBOUT  
14.James TROISI  
15.Mitch NICHOLS  
16.Rashid MAHAZI  
20.Lawrence THOMAS (GK)  
23.Adrian LEIJER  
24.Scott GALLOWAY  
25.Jason GERIA  
\*\*\*Two to be omitted\*\*\*

Ins: 13.Andrew NABBOUT  
(promoted), 2.Pablo CONTRERAS  
(returns from suspension)

Outs: -

Unavailable: -

## Melb Victory v Wellington Phoenix

Mon Nov 4 Etihad Stadium 7:30 PM

# New Dawn Against Old Boss

Andrew Bishara

**It's all but certain than Kevin Muscat will take control of the reigns at the Melbourne Victory, following Ange Postecoglou's departure to take the Socceroos job.**

The choice comes as no surprise, being that Muscat has been assistant since 2011 and spent 18 months under the tutelage of new Socceroos boss.

The questions are now on Muscat and his credentials: does he have the tactical nous to switch things if they go wrong? Does he have the motivation to fire up the players when the chips are down? Muscat is a passionate person, who's been well trained by one of the best in the game, but it's a different proposition when you're the man-in-charge.

It also seems fitting that Muscat will be facing off against the coach that made him such a successful clog in early Victory days. Ernie Merrick led the Victory to two titles and three grand finals, but left in 2011 after a disappointing campaign.

He's back now with the Phoenix, who despite early predictions have risen to a few challenges this season. They were unlucky to lose to Brisbane in Round One; drew with



the Wanderers at Parramatta and if it were not for some way-would shooting, would have defeated the Newcastle Jets.

The team is slowly becoming a Merrick-outfit: tight in defence, and pushing forward with a possession-based game. It's a far cry from the counter-attacking defensive mindset of previous boss Ricki Herbert.

Captain Andrew Durante has praised the new manager's style.

"He's brought a brand new style of football to the club and a winning mentality," said Durante.

"Under Ernie it's all about a lot more passes through midfield and a lot more attacking football. It's really an attacking mentality and

we are beginning to come to grips with it.

"But there is a long way to go until we start playing the way he really wants us to play."

They aren't the perfect team just yet. Merrick has admitted that his decision to play with three forwards in the last two games has contributed to the Phoenix's slow starts.

"We can't play with that many strikers in this team and I think I've learned my lesson now," Merrick said.

"Defensively we did fine in the midfield, but there was no progression forward - there was no transition from the midfield to the strikers."

The Odds Head-to-Head

Glory 2.20  
Draw 3.40  
Heart 3.60

Played 18  
Victory 10  
Phoenix 2  
Draw 6

Referee: Matthew Gillett

Radio Broadcast: 774 ABC  
Melbourne, ABC Local Radio  
Victoria, 936 ABC Hobart and ABC  
Northern Tasmania Grandstand  
Digital Online/Mobile phone app

**Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MVCvWEL**

**Kiss of Death  
Victory 2-0 Phoenix**

Merrick isn't known for making the same mistake three times, which means he will change the team for this week's clash. The question is who, will be dropped from the line-up is unknown.

As for the Victory, with a full squad at his disposal, the likelihood is that Muscat won't change a winning formula or the now 4-2-2-2-strikerless formation is part of the club's structure.

The Phoenix will be looking to spoil the party, and they are due for a win soon. But it won't be here. The Victory are too hot on form, too motivated to let this game slip by. The blue half of Melbourne to grab the three points.



### Phoenix Line Up

1.Glen MOSS (GK)  
2.Manny MUSCAT  
3.Reece CAIRA  
5.Michael BOXALL  
6.Josh BRINDELL-SOUTH  
7.Leo BERTOS  
8.Paul IFILL  
9.Kenny CUNNINGHAM  
10.Stein HUYSEGEMS  
11.Jeremy BROCKIE  
13.Albert RIERA  
15.Jason HICKS  
16.Louis FENTON  
17.Vince LIA  
18.Ben SIGMUND  
21.Carlos HERNANDEZ  
22.Andrew DURANTE (c)  
30.Jacob SPOONLEY (GK).  
\*\*\*Two to be omitted\*\*\*

In: 6.Josh Brindell-South,  
16.Louis Fenton (returns from  
shoulder injury).

Out: Nil.

Unavailable: 20.Lewis Italiano  
(GK, ankle injury 2-3 weeks).

## Short Passes

**\$650,000 kick-starts Yarra Ranges Regional Soccer Centre**

Yarra Ranges soccer enthusiasts will be soon able to emulate their A-League heroes following today's news that the Victorian Coalition Government will be providing \$650,000 to develop Stage One of a new \$9.8 million regional soccer hub on Emerald Road, Monbulk.

Premier Denis Napthine joined Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe and member for Eastern Victoria region Edward O'Donohue to announce the funding for the new precinct to be known as the Yarra Ranges Regional Soccer Centre.

This project will deliver two new synthetic pitches, training lights, a new pavilion, change room facilities and a car park.

"This new centre is what the local football community has been waiting for and will provide local clubs like the 600 member-strong Monbulk Rangers Soccer Club with a perfect place to develop and cater for growing demand."

"Whether you call it soccer or football, it is a great way to stay fit, have fun and socialise," Mrs Fyffe said.

"This is great news for football fans and for the Monbulk community."

Dr Napthine thanked the funding partners in the \$9.8 million project, including Yarra Ranges Shire Council for its contribution of more than \$7.1 million and the Commonwealth Government for its \$2 million commitment.

# Round 4: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT Wanderers - 13 Adelaide - 0 - Draw - 2 Glory - 14 Sydney FC - 0 Draw - 1 Jets - 1 Mariners - 14 Draw - 0 Roar - 14 Heart - 0 Draw - 1 Victory - 12 Phoenix - 0 Draw - 3

**Santo Cilauro 08**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 4

Working Dog Productions

**George Donikian 06**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Draw  
Victory

Last week: 3

Media Mogul

**George Calombaris 08**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 3

No.1 Victory ticket holder

**Eddie Krncevic 09**

Draw  
Glory  
Mariners  
Roar  
Draw

Last week: 2

Former Socceroo

**John Perin 07**

WSW  
Perth  
Mariners  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 3

Hall of Fame Socceroo

**Andy Harper 05**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Brisbane  
Victory

Last week: 2

NSL Champ / Fox Sports

**Ross Alatsas 08**

Wanderers  
Perth  
Mariners  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 4

GM Greek Media Group

**Jimmy Campbell 07**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 3

Former Socceroo

**George Campbell 07**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Roar  
Draw

Last week: 3

Sth Melb & NSL Legend

**Jimmy Rooney 04**

Draw  
Glory  
Jets  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 2

World Cup '74 Socceroo

**Roger Sleeman 07**

Wanderers  
Draw  
Mariners  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 2

Reigning Tipping Champ

**John Doyle 04**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 2

Original Captain Socceroo

**Peter Katholos 07**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 2

Former Socceroo

**Steve Blair 06**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Roar  
Victory

Last week: 1

Former Socceroo

**Kiss Of Death 06**

Wanderers  
Glory  
Mariners  
Roar  
Draw

Last week: 2

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PHOTOS & GRAPHICS: ANITA MILAS



# KOSTA BARBOUSES



# Lozanovski makes 2013 a year to remember



## Victorian Premier League

Brandon Galgano

Northcote City Premiership winning coach Goran Lozanovski opens up on winning the premiership and what's in store for the future

It has most certainly been a year to remember for all those associated with the Northcote City Football Club who under the guidance of Goran Lozanovski managed to win not only the Minor Premiership but the Finals Series as well.

In an exclusive chat with GW, Lozanovski reveals his own personal reflections of the past season as well as his ambitions for the future.

Firstly Goran congratulations on what was a great season, what are your initial reflections on the year gone by?

Look, obviously it was a work in progress. It's been two years in the making and were delighted with our progress. It has most certainly been my most memorable season as a coach.

You have had a few really crucial players this season with the likes of Milos Lujic and Dean Piemonte firing on all cylinders, who did you believe were the standout performers this campaign?

We had a few boys who really stood out, guys like Milos (Lujic) and Rashid (Mahazi) were outstanding as well as Dean Piemonte who polled really well at the Gold Medal night in the first half of the year before he picked up a few injuries towards the end of the season. We also had a few younger guys like Alex Rojas and Evan Kounavelis who both were fantastic players for us.

Central to your success especially in the first half of the season was an outstanding front line, was that something you worked on throughout the pre-season or did it just come together as time went on?

I had coached Dean (Piemonte) at Bentleigh and Alex (Rojas) in the past and always believed they were great players with really good attitudes so I always knew that they could make a difference. Other guys like James Kalifatidis and of course Milos were also fantastic for us early on and I guess we just gelled really well and the results came as a result.

Were you at all surprised by how well the side performed especially in the early stages of the campaign or did you expect the side to do as well as they did?

We had a really challenging season last year, which we made the finals and was a massive success for us, but my focus was that if we were good enough to make the finals last year and if we added a few new faces we could do better than the



Northcote City's championship-winning coach Goran Lozanovski raises the VPL trophy with captain Alex Rojas.

year before and we were. Obviously we got off to a good start and got ourselves in a position to get into the top two which is what you work for and yeh it came as a bit of a surprise I guess but you know my expectations are always high, so once we got up there I expected us to stay there.

There was a period there where it looked like the team was slowing down a little, with that loss to Southern Stars and then the Preliminary final defeat against Bentleigh some people were beginning to question whether or not it would be your year. What was it that you said that really turned the side back on leading to that fantastic win over South Melbourne in the second Preliminary final?

Like all teams around the world there are times when you go through a bit of a slump, but you know, we just sat down after the Bentleigh game and told a few honest truths, but to the boys credit they got themselves back up and of course a fantastic performance against South Melbourne really set us up to go into the grand final with confidence.

So moving onto the Grand Final, obviously following that fantastic result against South Melbourne, your side played in a huge match

at AAMI Park against an in-form Bentleigh Greens side who probably had the better of the first half and missed a penalty early on, were you at all worried during the match that they might run away with it or were you always confident that the boys would pull through?

We started off a bit shakily and the penalty they got I thought was a bit soft, but you know, we were lucky he missed the goal and then we scored first. Then they replied quite quickly and then I thought that Milos's goal, just before extra time, should have been counted, but that's football you know and you can't argue with every decision that doesn't go your way. And then people say the red card changed the game and yeh it probably did, but you know it's a one off game so ill-discipline can cost you and we made the most of it.

So going into the future what are your own personal aspirations as a coach? Do you envisage yourself as a potential A-League manager or are you happy to just stay at Northcote for the time being?

I retired from playing at just 31 years old which was about eight years ago now, and if you had asked me back then if I would coach I would've said no way in hell.

I did eventually get into the coach-

ing side of things though about six months after I retired and it's taken me about eight years to really get to understand the role which is difficult, but I am really enjoying it at the moment and yeh, I never used to see myself as a professional coach but should I ever get an offer from the A-League I certainly would consider it, but for the time being I am happy to just stay here at Northcote and try to win as many titles as we can.

So finally away from Northcote and the Victorian Premier League you obviously used to play under Ange Postecoglou at South Melbourne back in the late 1990's who has just been appointed as the new coach of the Socceroos, what did you make of his appointment and do you believe that he is the right person for the job?

I think time will tell. It doesn't matter who it is you know, everybody has their own different views and opinions. But I think it is great that we have a local national coach and obviously he has been really successful at club level, but coaching a national team is different; with less time to work with the players and then he obviously had that time with the young Socceroos, which was difficult for him, but I think it has only helped him to improve as a coach, and I think he can bring a



Winning the FFV Coach of the Year Award set up a great week for Goran.

different dimension to the national team.

Look, I'm hoping for success not just because I know Ange personally, but because I think he has great experience from the last ten years at both club and national level, and I think he will bring back something

for the national team.

Thanks for your time Goran, it's been a truly memorable season for both yourself and the club and I wish you all the best for the future

No problems at all thank you.

**STRAIGHT JACKET**

ADRIAN DEANS

"Adrian Deans does for Sydney's leafy fringes what Irvine Welsh does for Edinburgh's council estates."

## A new novel by GW's Adrian Deans

Adrian Deans does for Sydney's leafy fringes what Irvine Welsh does for Edinburgh's council estates. Straight Jacket is a rip-snorter of a ride through the dark heart of the burbs and may just be Australia's answer to American Psycho.

Kirsten Krauth, just\_a\_girl

Sometimes funny, sometimes disturbing, and always compelling. With a super original premise and a one-of-a-kind protagonist, Deans' entertaining follow up to Mr Cleansheets delivers on every level.

Tony Wilson, Making News

A disturbingly good read. Unnerving and darkly comic. Stuart Quin, Ealing Studios Australia



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**NYL  
Wrap**
**Tomasz Ng**

**The National Youth League 2013/14 season may have come around to little fanfare, but there has been plenty to digest from the weekend's action.**

It certainly was a good start to the new season, and the new look youth squads have kicked into gear straight away. There have been a few familiar faces popping up at new clubs, doing their best to impress their new employers, and maybe prove their former ones wrong.

Defending champions Melbourne Victory was involved in what was without a doubt the most dramatic contest of the round as they held on for a 3-3 draw against Brisbane at Goodwin Park.

Victory lead 3-1 on the 68th minute mark, when Andrew Nabbutt coolly slotted home his second of the contest to send a timely reminder to new coach Kevin Muscat what he's capable of.

But it was all Brisbane from that point on as they piled on the pressure, with Mitchell Hore and Jai Ingham scoring within four minutes of each other to level it up.

They could also have snatched a winner late on had Brandon Borello not been called offside.

Victory will certainly want to keep their scoring boots on as their opponents for Round 2, the Australian Institute of Sport, defeated a valiant Newcastle outfit 2-0 thanks to heroics from goalkeeper Jordan Thurtell at the AIS Grass Fields.

The AIS shot stopper was in superb form to repel everything the Jets threw at him, and kept a highly impressive clean sheet. That meant goals from an impressive Alexander Gersbach and Bai Antoniou were enough to take the points for the home side.

Newcastle will hope for more against Central Coast Mariners in the next round, who were also kept scoreless in their match against Adelaide United.

It was a day to be a goalkeeper in Tuggerah as David Bradasevic and Paul Izzo made some impressive saves to keep the game deadlocked at 0-0, while there were also plenty of

near misses from both sides.

Young forward Joshua Bingham was a standout for the home side, but he could only watch as Izzo foiled his good work in and around the box. Going south to Cromer Park, Sydney FC avenged their senior side's derby loss to Western Sydney Wanderers by snatching a heart breaking, late 1-0 win.

Sydney FC had the running in the first half, in what was described as a scrappy contest overall, but Western Sydney grew into the second half, and came close to grabbing a winner of their own had it not been for Anthony Bouzanis in goal for Sydney FC.

In the end it was Christopher Naumoff who sealed the points for the Sky Blues in stoppage time, to break the hearts of their local rivals.

Naumoff will be chomping at the bit to repeat the dose against his next opponents Perth Glory.

Perth succumbed to a defeat at home against Melbourne Heart, and were rather fortunate to have the score only read 1-0 at the final whistle.

A red card to the aptly named Liberian Blamo Qua Qua only failed to make it easier for Perth, who couldn't find a reply to Ersin Kaya's 33rd minute goal.

Former Victory youth 'keeper Luke Radonich, now back at his hometown club, was in good form to deny Heart on a couple of occasions, while Adrian Zahra put in a good shift against his former employers and was also unlucky not to have his name on the scoresheet.

Heart will now look forward to their trip north to meet Brisbane, who ended their clash against Victory like a house on fire.

#### ROUND 2

**Sat 2 Nov 13 2:30pm**  
**Brisbane Roar Vs Melbourne Heart**  
**Goodwin Park**

**Sun 3 Nov 13 10:00am**  
**Perth Glory Vs Sydney FC**  
**Intiga Stadium**

**Sun 3 Nov 13 2:30pm**  
**Melbourne Victory Youth Vs AIS**  
**Lakeside Stadium**

**Sun 3 Nov 13 2:30pm**  
**Wanderers Vs Adelaide United**  
**Marconi Stadium**

**Sun 3 Nov 13 3:00pm**  
**Newcastle Jets Vs Mariners**  
**Wanderers Oval**

# Heskey's Challenge

By Roger Sleeman

**It's a long way from the sold out stadiums of the EPL to the sedate atmosphere of Australia's A-League but for Emile Heskey, the journeyman of English football, Newcastle, Australia, is the place he now calls home.**

The English summer of 2012 was a watershed in Heskey's career as he faced the daunting prospect of finding new employment in the EPL after Aston Villa failed to renew his contract, despite interest expressed by Championship clubs.

Fortunately, a new opportunity emerged in the guise of his former England and Liverpool team-mate, Robbie Fowler, who suggested a stint in the A-League would rejuvenate Heskey's career.

"Robbie Fowler contacted me and said there were some very good players in the A-League while Michael Bridges spoke in glowing terms of this growing League", recalls Heskey.

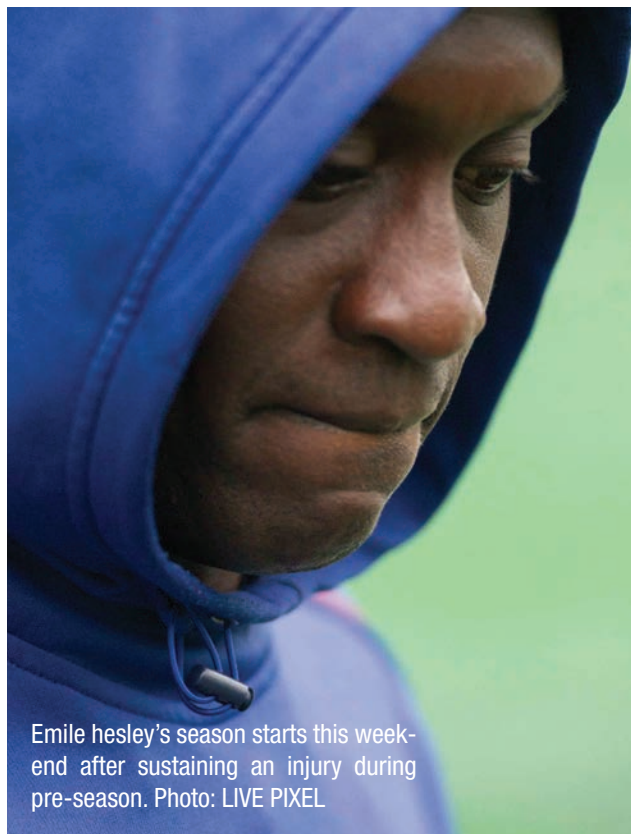
"After finally speaking to Dwight Yorke, I decided to accept Newcastle Jet's two year offer".

Heskey's first season was highly productive as he foraged nine goals in twenty three matches for the Jets and was looking forward in anticipation to the new season.

However, as so often happens in professional football, the fairytale temporarily halted two weeks ago when Heskey strained his left medial knee ligament against Melbourne Victory in a preseason trial match which will see him absent for the first three rounds.

"At first I didn't think it was bad but the x-ray revealed a grade two strain which was devastating because all you want is to be out on the field with your team-mates to win games and maximise points in the early rounds".

"Critically, you have to remain positive and know you will recover, remembering if you didn't suffer injuries, you'd be a pretty remarkable competitor in any sport".



Emile heskey's season starts this weekend after sustaining an injury during pre-season. Photo: LIVE PIXEL

When footballers are forced to take the count, there is always time to reflect on past deeds and although Heskey has expert assistance from the Jets physio staff to rehabilitate, he will still ponder those remarkable nineteen years in professional football.

Nevertheless, there were times in his career when Heskey received less than favourable publicity because the so called experts considered his finishing conversion rate was less than acceptable.

"Every striker wants to score more goals but as a target man I've always taken great delight in bringing other players into the game".

"At Liverpool and England I formed a great partnership with Michael Owen who played off me with great success and in more recent times Wayne Rooney carried

out a similar role".

Many defenders also bore the brunt of the powerful man when he put fear in them with his highly physical approach which allowed the likes of Beckham, Lampard and Gerard to control games with their great passing range and forward runs.

Heskey was the perfect example of a player who never let criticism affect him and the fact he was recalled by Fabio Capello for the 2010 World Cup qualifiers, after experiencing some time in the football wilderness, was testimony to his value in the England shirt.

History recalls his magnificent contribution to one of England's finest away victories at Zagreb in September, 2008 when England humbled Croatia 4-1.

It was the day Theo Walcott finally

came of age with a great hat-trick but Heskey made a huge contribution to allow Walcott and Rooney to play havoc with the Croatian defence.

Heskey played nearly 550 games in English senior football but is particularly concerned about the domination of foreign players in the EPL.

"Obviously there has been talk of a quota system being introduced but the problem remains when you sell yourself as the best League in the world, its only business that matters".

"Perhaps, they should drop the E and call it the Premier League but in the end we have to bring more English players through from the Championship and the other Football League divisions".

"Thankfully, the authorities are now leading the push to produce more technical players in the club academies which can only contribute to the increase in English products progressing to the EPL".

Meanwhile, Heskey believes Australia had a great opportunity to play a young team in last month's international against Brazil because the squad needs backup and it would have been a good test to see who could rise to the plate.

"Certainly, the 6-0 drubbing confirmed there was nothing to lose by adopting a youth policy", says Heskey.

"Similarly, I believe this season will be a coming of age for Jet's young players like Brilliante, Chapman, Hoole and Taggart because they had a full season in the A-League last season as well as gaining valuable experience in the World Youth Championship in Turkey during June this year".

2013/14 A-League season will also be a challenge for Emile Heskey as he delivers the message "Time to Shine", accompanied by Harry Kewell, Mark Bosnich and Allesandro Del Piero on the Fox Sports advertisement for the A-League.

*This article first appeared in The Guardian Australia.*

# AFCAT celebrates first anniversary

**It's been a whirlwind first year for the Association Football Coaches and Trainers organisation but former VIS and Victorian NTC head coach Ian Greener is confident that AFCAT can continue to grow.**

"We are one year old this week and in the past 12 months much has been achieved," said Greener.

"In total we have 110 members with our target of 100 foundation members met and our membership is based both in Australia and internationally."

AFCAT now includes such luminaries as former Socceroos and AIS coach Ron Smith, Socceroos goalkeeping coach Tony Franken, Melbourne Victory goalkeeping coach Steve Mautone, Brisbane Roar assistant Luciano Trani, four coaches from the West Bromwich Albion Academy in the UK and Emanuel Saakai, a Masai warrior who lives in Arusha, Tanzania and runs the

Lengo Football Academy for street kids. AFCAT through regular skype sessions and long distance learning programs is helping around 90 street kids experience more fun and quality coaching practices through our interaction with Emanuel

Local coaches with a wealth of experience include Chris Taylor, Stan Webster, Gus MacLeod, Frank McGrellis, George Hughes, John Waddell, Harry Chalkitis, Lou Kastner, Dean Hennessy, Jim Williams, Jimmy Smart, Ian Williamson and Zed Milhajlovic.

AFCAT's 100th member is George Lazarou from Sydney and the organisation also has members in Queensland including George Cowie, Ken Morton in Tasmania and Paul Truman in Thailand.

"We have conducted 16 sessions throughout our first year including Practical and Theory sessions on all topics and coaching themes," said Greener.

Skype sessions have also been conducted with overseas coaches including Bobby Davison (ex-Leeds, Derby County player who has coached at various clubs in the UK and Ferencvaros in Hungary) and Steve Harrison (ex-Middlesbrough and England coach).

AFCAT has strong links with the Professional Football Coaches Association and the League Manager's Association in the UK and the European Coaches Association.

Plans for 2014 are to push into other Australian states to increase membership and come into contact with more grassroots coaches.

The organisation has been invited to conduct sessions in NSW and Queensland in February 2014 with similar plans for Tasmania.

To finish off 2013 AFCAT is finalising plans for a two-day coaching seminar on Saturday 7 December and Sunday 8 December with a program soon to be released of



practical and theory sessions featuring local, interstate and overseas coaches.

The men behind AFCAT are Greener, Harry Bingham and Australian Football Skool director Rolando Navas.

"Under the current system we are neglecting to deliver information to our local coaches on other world practices and methodologies which may lead us down the path of de-

veloping one-dimensional players and coaches alike. Our current perspective on coach education is far too narrow and coaches need to be made aware of the fact that there is so much more to football than a 1-4-3-3 formation," said Greener.

"Let's give coaches the information and let them decide how to apply it in terms of systems.

"There is a lot to like about the National Curriculum and there's no doubt that it has much to offer but we also feel we have much to offer our local coaches too.

"I'm hopeful that in time the powers that be will come to realise this and that we can play an active part in what I hope will be a very positive move for coaches and trainers. Having been involved in coach education programs working for the FFV and FFA for almost 20 years I believe we have put together a program and a team of presenters/ keynote speakers which can aid in the

on going development of coaches of all levels and gender.

There's an annual fee of \$75 for AFCAT membership and the organisation has developed a very busy and active website at [afcat.com.au](http://afcat.com.au) where memberships can be purchased on line and access gained to a wealth of coaching information including lesson plans, drills, coaching practices and presentations from major football nations from all over the globe and organisations already mentioned such as the Professional Football Coaches Association( PFCA ) and the League Managers Association (LMA) from the UK and the European Coaches Association.



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## FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Skrill Premier Round 17 Salisbury v Hereford 6:40am LIVE

Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 11:40am LIVE

Bundesliga Round 11 Preview Show 7:00pm 1st Airing

Capital One Cup Round 4 Highlights Show 9:50pm 1st Airing

## SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

Bundesliga Round 11 Dortmund v Stuttgart 6:25am LIVE

Sky Bet Championship Round 15 Ipswich v Barnsley 6:45am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com

Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final 1st Leg Highlights Show 12:10pm 1st Airing

Sky Bet Championship Round 15 Watford v Leicester 11:10pm LIVE

## SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

Sky Bet Championship Round 15 Sheff Weds v Reading 1:55am LIVE

Scottish Premiership Round 12 St Mirren v Ross County 2:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com

Bundesliga Round 11 Frankfurt v Wolfsburg 4:25am LIVE

Bundesliga Round 11 Hoffenheim v Bayern Munich 6:30am 1st Airing

Bundesliga Round 11 Hertha Berlin v Schalke 8:20am 1st Airing

## MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

Bundesliga Round 11 Augsburg v Mainz 1:25am LIVE

Bundesliga Round 11 Werder Bremen v Hannover 3:25am LIVE

Primera Division Round 14 Teams TBC 8:05am LIVE

Primera Division Round 14 Teams TBC 11:10am LIVE

Bundesliga Round 11 Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing

Sky Bet Championship Round 15 Highlights Show 9:50pm 1st Airing

## TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

Scottish Premiership Round 12 Aberdeen v Partick 6:40am LIVE

Scottish Premiership Round 12 Highlights Show 7:30pm 1st Airing

## WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final 2nd Leg Teams TBC 11:20am LIVE

Scottish Premiership Round 12 Highlights Show 8:00pm 1st Airing

## THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

Scottish League 1 Round 11 Rangers v Dunfermline 6:40am LIVE

Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final 2nd Leg Teams TBC 8:45am LIVE

Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final 2nd Leg Teams TBC 11:20am LIVE

## FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

UEFA Europa League Group Stage, Matchday 4 Kuban v Swansea 3:50am LIVE

UEFA Europa League Group Stage, Matchday 4 Teams TBC 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com

UEFA Europa League Group Stage, Matchday 4 Tottenham v Sheriff 6:55am LIVE

UEFA Europa League Group Stage, Matchday 4 Teams TBC 7:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com

Copa Sudamericana Quarter Final 2nd Leg Teams TBC 11:20am LIVE



## SBS ONE

Friday November 1st

7:00 pm A-League Live – Round 3: Western Sydney Wanderers v Adelaide United

Every Sunday

4:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

Every Monday

4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial

11:00 pm The World Game

Every Thursday

8:30 pm Thursday FC

11:00 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

## SBS TWO

Every Monday

8:40 pm A-League Highlights Show

Every Tuesday

5:00 pm A-League Highlights Show



## ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE

Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

## WEEK 12

Sat Nov 2 Newcastle v Chelsea

11.35 pm Fox 1

Sat Nov 3 Fulham v Manchester United 1.50 am Fox 1

Sun Nov 3 Manchester City v Norwich 1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Nov 3 Stoke v Southampton 1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Nov 3 West Brom v Crystal Palace 1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Nov 3 West Ham v Aston Villa 1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Nov 3 Hull v Sunderland 1.50 am Fox Sports News

Sun Nov 3 Arsenal v Liverpool 4.15 am Fox 1

Mon Nov 4 Everton v Tottenham 12.20 am Fox 1

Mon Nov 4 Cardiff v Swansea 2.50 am Fox 1

## HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE - ALL GAMES FOX 1

Fri Nov 1 Wanderers v Adelaide 7.30 pm

Sat Nov 2 Perth v Sydney FC 5.30 pm

Sat Nov 2 Newcastle v Mariners 7.45 pm

Sun Nov 3 Brisbane v Heart 5.00 pm

Mon Nov 4 Victory v Phoenix .....7.30 pm

## FOX SPORTS FC

Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

## SPANISH LA LIGA

Sun Nov 2 Barcelona v Espanyol

6.55 am Fox 2

Sun Nov 3 Rayo Vallecano v Real Madrid

5.55 am Fox 3



## TV Heaven

Matthew Naqvi

It was a weekend of few goals but plenty of action in the A-League. Archie Thompson looked dangerous with his through balls, positioning and awareness but failed to score a sitter. Carlos Hernandez provided glimpses of his prime with sublime shots and passes. Sydney's only highlight came from Nikola Petkovic cracking 30m free kick that cannoned into the crossbar. This week promises a few more goals with plenty of intriguing matches.

Western Sydney Wanderers play host to Adelaide FC in what should be a cracking match-up. The Wanderers are sitting pretty in second spot on the ladder and have continued their incredible form from last year. WSW exposed and exploited Sydney's insipid defence on the way to a 2-nil win. Shinji Ono's goal was something else and really em-

barrassed the Sky Blues.

Adelaide United on the other hand was valiant in defeat against reigning premiers Central Coast Mariners. They are in fifth spot, playing well and will put the fight to the Wanderers. I would tip a hard fought draw with a goal apiece as long as Adelaide is rock solid in defence.

The rest of the A-League matches this round seem to be rather one-sided with Central Coast, Brisbane, Melbourne Victory all set for victories against lower placed opponents. Perth has every right to lay claim to favouritism in their match against Sydney with home ground advantage and a good win over Melbourne Heart last week. If the results go as planned, the breakaway between the top and bottom teams on the ladder could be in full swing.

In English Premier League action there will be a spectacular top 3 battle between ladder leaders Arsenal and third placed Liverpool. Liverpool is on fire early in the season with attacking pair Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge working extremely well together. Suarez is coming off a hat-trick against West Bromich Albion.



Arsenal takes on Liverpool in the pick of the tube action this weekend

Arsenal's defence were in incredible form with central defenders Laurent Koscielny and Per Mertesacker ensuring a clean sheet was kept against Crystal Palace. This battle could very well determine just who wins the game. If Suarez and Sturridge can utilise their pace and wreak havoc, Liverpool may just edge out the Gunners. I expect Liverpool to edge Arsenal out 2-1 to take top of the ladder.

La Liga sees Barcelona and Espanyol in action in what will be another interesting match-up. Espanyol are sitting in eighth spot and while others may count

them out, you never know what can happen in football. Barcelona is in top spot and will not want to give away points. Barcelona has the flair and confidence to put to rest Espanyol away and continue their domination.

As always, SBS offers plenty of football analysis with The A-League Highlights Show and The World Game on Monday night, while Thursday FC provides light entertainment on Thursday night.

Enjoy plenty of football action this weekend and hopefully your team wins.



## Katsa's Korner

George Katsamboukas

## Big Shoes To Fill At Melbourne Victory

The Socceroos have a new Manager with local favourite, Ange Postecoglou getting the nod.

The media ran wild with this story, both before it broke and after, with a level of enthusiasm that has not been seen before.

Postecoglou was appointed not only based on his excellent A-League Record, with Brisbane Roar's 36 Game winning streak, plus two Titles, and the rapid turnaround of Melbourne Victory in his 18 Months there, but for his ability to change the Culture and Personnel.

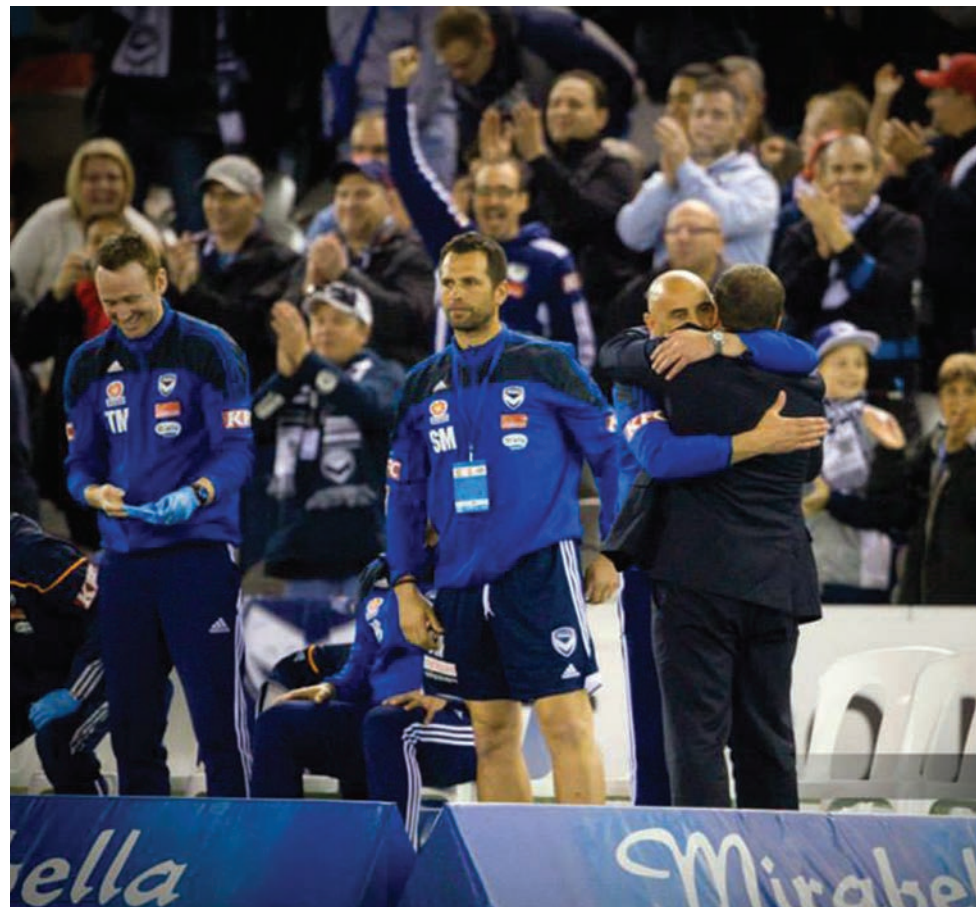
It's His way or the Highway, literally, ask Craig Moore, Danny Tiatto and Charlie Miller who had issues subscribing to Postecoglou's new methods at Brisbane Roar, and Moore went to the Board saying its either Ange or Him, Moore came second and was released, as were the other two.

The Socceroo's Brand has been damaged of late, following two consecutive Tennis Scores against Brazil and France and they are in desperate need of an overhaul in Personnel, and mind sets.

Postecoglou was appointed to do this, and he will have no issue in retiring the many Veterans that can be argued, are past their Use by Date for International Football.

He has no fear or issue in placing his faith in Youth, something that he has done at the Melbourne Victory with success.

He will also bring a level of passion to the job that has been sadly



And it's good-night from him, and hello from me. Old pals pass on the baton from one to the other. Photo: ANITA MILAS

missing of late, as his predecessor implemented some very questionable training methods, as using Training Camps to do fitness work on Full Time Professionals does not cut the mustard.

These Camps should have been used to implement a Playing System, something that has been lacking also.

Postecoglou's bitter sweet moment was that infamous interview with Craig Foster on SBS many years ago and it did damage his image.

However it gave him the motiva-

tion to prove the non-believers wrong and after a few years of laying low and spending time at various Clubs in Europe observing and learning, he returned to the top level in Australia with a philosophy and System that he believed in, and more importantly, was able to sell to his Players.

His appointment leaves the Melbourne Victory Club Powerbrokers in a predicament, in terms of his replacement as Head Coach.

Do they place their faith in Kevin Muscat, who has the support of

Posetcoglou, or do they search for a more experienced option?

Muscat will certainly be under the microscope if he gets the nod, as the Victory Board are unforgiving and they expect and demand results, failure is not tolerated lightly, just ask Merrick, Durakovic and more recently Jimmy Magilton.

Until next week.

This is Katsa – Just as you have known him

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PHOTOS: WALTER PLESS

# Tasmania holds out over Vics

By Walter Pless

If games were won on chances, Victoria's women would have won the Bass Strait Cup easily.

They squandered numerous chances, including a penalty and several one-on-ones with the goalkeeper. But, games are won on goals and Tasmania took one of their few opportunities and then played heroically to keep out the visitors and lift the Cup.

Tasmanian goalkeeper Amelia Van Der Niet showed her experience and class. She saved the penalty and denied Victoria several scoring opportunities when she was left in one-on-one situations against attackers.

Her distribution was suspect on occasion, but she redeemed herself with superb saves from situations where she had given the ball straight to the opposition.

Tasmania were dangerous on the counter-attack, whereas Victoria retained possession for long periods and built up their attacks methodically, only to fall down in terms of finishing.

Both sides demonstrated good technique, tactical astuteness and awareness of positional play in terms of the formations they deployed.

The Victorians looked confident from the start against the nervous locals and they retained possession as they probed for weaknesses, but the Tasmanians quickly grew braver and more adventurous.

In the 5th minute, Tasmania created their first chance when Ellie Gavalas released Innocent Michael down the left and her accurate cross found Jessie Williams, whose shot was well saved by Line Johansen in the Victorian goal.

A minute later, Louisa Marmion blazed high over the bar for Tasmania as the home side grew in confidence.

The Victorians were very mobile up front, with Brittany Dudley-Smith and Leigh Gray particularly elusive and dangerous, although Tasmania's back-four of Isabella Gee, Hanna Manuela, Caitlin Storay and Lousia Marmion were

up to the challenge and defended cleverly and solidly.

In the 12th minute, Van Der Niet turned a shot by Dudley-Smith wide for a corner.

Tasmania dealt with the corner and Van Der Niet immediately turned defence into attack. The ball was at the other end in an instant and the result was a goal as Rani Cavarretta left Alex Cheal sprawled on the ground and took on Johansen. The keeper parried Cavarretta's initial shot, but Cavarretta rolled the rebound into the unguarded net to put the home side ahead.

It was almost 2-0 in the 17th minute when a terrible misunderstanding at the back by Victoria almost let Williams in to score.

The Victorians knew they were in a game by now and increased the tempo. In the 18th minute, Dudley-Smith should have scored when she got onto the end of a magnificent cross from the right, but she headed over the bar.

On the half-hour, Natalie Martineau's dangerous shot took a deflection and looped over Van Der Niet's bar.

Tasmania's Cavarretta blazed high over the bar in the 41st minute after Williams had set her up beautifully following a corner.

Martineau was foiled at point-blank range by Van Der Niet, whose poor clearance in the 43rd minute, had only found substitute Stacey Papadopolous, who slipped the ball through to Martineau for a clear run at goal.

Victoria were awarded a penalty in stoppage time at the end of the first half when Gee fouled Dudley-Smith, but Van Der Niet saved Steph Tanti's spot-kick.

Both sides made several substitutions during the second half in order to give their entire squads a run.

Nine minutes after the interval, Martineau again threw away the chance of an equaliser when she shot wide when facing only the goalkeeper.

In the 57th minute, Victoria won a corner, from which Christie Parton volleyed wide.

The Victorian back-four of Melissa Missailidis, Cheal, Parton and Erin Brennan were in control, but their



Victoria's goalkeeper, Line Johansen, pulls off a fine save against Tasmania

midfielders and strikers were unable to penetrate the home side's resolute defence. The Tasmanian midfielders, Williams, Gavalas and Lucy Foote were a match for their Victorian counterparts and made them work for possession.

Van Der Niet was called on again in the 62nd minute as she denied the irrepressible Dudley-Smith yet again.

Both sides had chances in the closing minutes, Sky Jensen shooting wide for Victoria and Michael hitting the side-netting in a rare Tasmanian attack.

But, it was the Tasmanians who lifted the Seasol Bass Strait Cup in the end after an entertaining and magnificent advertisement for the women's game.

It is certainly to be hoped that this becomes an annual event.

Tasmania's goalscorer, Rani Cavarretta, said:

"It was really exciting to win that game. We fought hard.

"We didn't know what to expect and we're so happy to come away with the win.

"Having the crowd behind us really helped as well.

"The girls came out and played their game, which is really important. We tried to play the ball around and, in the end, we came out on top and we're really, really happy with that."

Tasmania's co-coach, Michael Foote, said:

"We couldn't be happier. We said before the game they're a totally

unknown quantity.

"We didn't know what to expect and we're over the moon. We matched it well with them.

"We knew it wasn't the absolute cream of their crop, but we knew they were still going to be strong and with a lot more depth than we have here.

"We're just happy that we were competitive to start with and to come away with a win was even better.

"There's talk of it being an annual event, and we hope it is. We told our girl we hope it's the start of something and it'll go for a long time."

Victoria's coach, Shaun Parton, said:

"If I was a spectator and had nothing

to do with either team, I would have honestly thought that the yellows [Victoria] deserved at least a draw.

"A penalty miss, multiple one-on-ones, but credit to Tasmania. They did very well.

"Their goalie was exceptional. Didn't do anything wrong for the whole game. The shots were in and around a good area for her, but I thought they defended very well and we finished poorly.

"The whole second half we were camped in their half but just couldn't score. That happens in soccer matches.

"It's three o'clock now. At 5 o'clock I don't think we would have scored."

The victorious Tasmanian women's All Stars side with the Seasol Bass Strait Cup



## Bass Strait Cup

Tasmania All Stars 1 (R Cavarretta 13)  
Victoria All Stars 0

HT: 1-0 Att: 470 Ref: J Hortle  
KGV Park, Glenorchy,  
Sunday, 27 October 2013

Tasmania: Van Der Niet - Gee, Manuela (O'Brien 64), Storay, Marmion (Walsh 69) - Gavalas (Norton 69), Williams, L Foote - Bremner (Hutchinson 56), Cavarretta (G Foote 56), Michael

Victoria: Johansen (Eyar 76) - Missailidis (Jensen 58), Cheal, Parton, Brennan - Tanti, Martineau, Fogarty (Pfeiffer 58), Hussein (Papadopoulos 32) - Gray (Tay 64), Dudley-Smith



**GOAL!**  
WEEKLY



**SHINJI ONO**

**WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS**

Photo: GEORGE MARIN

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The A-League logo, featuring a stylized sunburst design with the text 'A-LEAGUE' below it.



# Melbourne Uni go 6 points clear in Pepsi League

**WVL Round 5 Results**  
**Heidelberg 4 - 5 Ashburton**  
**HBERG:** E. Fakos 2, E. Torre, T. Metaxas  
**ASH:** L. Barrett 2, N. Lusi 2, C. Kovenias (OG)  
As expected, Ashburton led at the break by a 3-2 margin as forward pair Nat Lusi and Leah Barrett continued their fine form. The second half was a different story as Heidelberg didn't back down and showed plenty of improvement since thier first game in Round 2. Goals from Taylah Metaxas and Eleni Fakos levelled the scores with only minutes to go, luckily for Ashburton, Nat Lusi buried a fine strike late in the half to seal her sides second win of the season.  
**MVP:** Leah Barrett (Ashburton)

**Pascoe Vale 0-2 Richmond**  
**RICH:** G. Vincent, M. Boorman (OG)  
Game of the night up next and in the first half both teams looked to maintain possession and control the tempo, both sides had a mindset not to concede so it was no shock when the half ended 0-0. To kick start the game into life, Richmond's Grace Vincent managed to put Richmond in front which awoke Pascoe into endless shots on goal, but their op-posing keeper Sara Clapham held firm. An own goal by Pascoe keeper molly Boorman late in the half all but sealed the win for Richmond as they leapfrogged their arch rivals into second position.  
**MVP:** Sara Clapham (Richmond)

**Vic Vipers 2-3 EFA Eagles**  
**VV:** J. Pedic, T. Benoit  
**EFA:** R. Berry, N. Ryan, S. Cope  
The third game on the card saw the heavily favoured Vic Vipers take on bottom of the table EFA Eagles. With a median age of around 15 years of age, the young Eagles stepped up to the plate to draw 1-1 with the experienced Vipers at the break. Fresh faced Eagles manager Greg Lascaris got his team firing in the second half as they scored two unanswered goals to take a shock 3-1 lead. With Eagles keeper Maddie Nobbs having plenty to do, the Vipers soon broke through as Tina Benoit converted a traditional thumping strike with only a few minutes remaining. But in the end the Eagles held on for what was the biggest win in their short history



Fitzroy's Ben Montealeone does his best to stifle the influence of Ashburton's match winner Ricky Castro.



Eagles' Naomi Ryan celebrates after scoring her sides third goal.

and ultimately get off the bottom of the ladder.  
**MVP:** Maddie Nobbs (EFA Eagles)

**Melbourne Uni 7-2 Fitzroy**  
**MU:** M. Marques 3, L. Sammut 2, P. Ribas, N. Cook  
**FTZ:** M. Mitkovski, L. Woods  
The final game for Round 5 concluded with table toppers Melbourne Uni aiming to keep their 100% start to the season against Fitzroy. Marcella Marques was up to her usual brilliance for Melbourne Uni as her two first half goals set her side up for a commanding 4-0 lead. The second half saw Fitzroy make a mini comeback scoring two quick goals, but it was too little too late as Marques capped off her hat trick to lead her side to their fifth win in a row.  
**MVP:** Marcella Marques (Melbourne Uni)



Melbourne Uni's Brazilian's Priscilla Ribas (L) and Marcella Marques embrace after combining for yet another goal.

**Mens Round 6**  
**Mickleham 6-3 Albert Park**  
**MICK:** L. Campbell 3, L. Holian, A. Mesinovic, I. Filipovic  
**APK:** E. Mutabazi 3  
The first game on the card for Round 6 saw the two bottom placed sides in Mickleham and Albert Park take to the pitch. Both sides were pointless after five games and it was Mickleham who took a commanding advantage at half time leading 4-1. The second half belonged to Mickleham's returning striker Lachie Campbell who scored a further

two goals to complete his hat trick and seal a valuable - and potentially season saving - win. Elisee Mutabazi was the pick of the Albert Park players as he also claimed a hat trick, but of course it was not enough.  
**Man of the Match:** Lachie Campbell (Mickleham)

**Fitzroy 4-4 Ashburton**  
**FTZ:** J. Silveria 2, B. Montealeone, A. Dunlop  
**ASH:** R. Castro 3, R. Covarru-

bias  
The second game for Round 6 was an absolute blockbuster as two emerging sides in Fitzroy and Ashburton went head to head. A win was crucial for both teams as they looked to make themselves genuine top four contenders, and it showed they had equal determination at the break as it ended 2-2 with Ashburton's Ricky Castro the standout with a double.

A five minute period of pure brilliance from Fitzroy first gamer Joao Silveria saw his two goals put his side into a one goal lead, only for a freak deflection from Castro in the final ten seconds to lock the scores at 4-4. It really was an amazing feat for Ashburton who were a player down after losing Davide Acovissi to a red card!  
**Man of the Match:** Ricky Castro (Ashburton)

Standings											
NIKE V-LEAGUE Premiership											
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	FD	Pts		
1 Vic Vipers	5	5	0	0	0	35	16	+19	15		
2 Fitzroy FC	5	3	1	0	1	27	24	+3	10		
3 Pascoe Vale FC	4	3	1	0	0	28	12	+16	9		
4 Metropolitan FC	5	3	2	0	0	38	23	+15	9		
5 Ashburton FC	6	2	2	0	2	32	35	-3	8		
6 Hume FC	5	2	2	0	1	34	24	+10	7		
7 Mickleham FC	6	1	5	0	0	25	49	-24	3		
8 Albert Park FC	6	0	6	0	0	20	56	-36	0		

Pepsi Womens WV-LEAGUE											
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	FD	Pts		
1 Melbourne Uni FC	5	5	0	0	0	34	7	+27	15		
2 F.C Richmond	5	3	1	0	1	31	19	+12	10		
3 Pascoe Vale FC	5	3	2	0	0	29	10	+19	9		
4 Fitzroy FC	5	3	2	0	0	15	28	-13	9		
5 Ashburton FC	5	2	2	0	1	22	32	-10	7		
6 Vic Vipers FC	5	1	2	0	2	18	17	+1	5		
7 E.F.A Eagles	5	1	4	0	0	12	30	-18	3		
8 Heidelberg FC	5	0	5	0	0	9	27	-18	0		

State League Championship											
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	FD	Pts		
1 CF Brunswick	6	6	0	0	0	43	21	+22	18		
2 FC Balwyn	5	4	1	0	0	34	12	+22	12		
3 Moreland F.C	6	3	2	0	1	29	26	+3	10		
4 FC Northcote	5	3	2	0	0	23	23	+0	9		
5 FC Carlton	6	2	2	0	2	26	24	+2	8		
6 Brimbank FC	6	2	3	0	1	35	45	-10	7		
7 FC Melbourne	6	1	5	0	0	29	34	-5	3		
8 FC Essendon	6	0	6	0	0	17	51	-34	0		

State League One											
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	FD	Pts		
1 FC Collingwood	7	5	2	0	0	37	19	+18	15		
2 Brighton FC	7	4	1	0	2	34	19	+15	14		
3 C.F South Melb	7	4	3	0	0	30	26	+4	12		
4 FC Prahran	7	3	2	0	2	28	22	+6	11		
5 FC Hawthorn	7	3	3	0	1	25	22	+3	10		
6 Toorak FC	7	3	3	0	1	27	29	-2	10		
7 Coburg Athletic	7	2	5	0	0	21	35	-14	6		
8 F.C Footscray	7	1	6	0	0	23	53	-30	3		

State League Two											
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	FD	Pts		
1 Doncaster FC	7	7	0	0	0	38	16	+22	21		
2 FC Preston	7	5	2	0	0	30	24	+6	15		
3 Moeleod FC	7	4	2	0	1	36	31	+5	13		
4 FC Geelong	7	3	4	0	0	51	29	+22	9		
5 FC Richmond	7	3	4	0	0	37	45	-8	9		
6 EFA Eagles	7	2	4	0	1	33	33	+0	7		
7 Elsternwick FC	7	2	5	0	0	23	30	-7	6		
8 FC St Kilda	7	1	6	0	0	26	43	-17	3		

**NIKE MENS V-LEAGUE CLASHES**  
Friday November 1  
5:00pm - Vic Vipers FC vs Mickleham FC  
6:00pm - Albert Park FC vs Pascoe Vale FC  
7:00pm - Fitzroy FC vs Hume FC  
8:00pm - Ashburton FC vs Metropolitan FC  
8:00pm - Metropolitan FC vs Pascoe Vale FC  
9:00pm - Hume FC vs Vic Vipers FC

**PEPSI WOMEN'S V-LEAGUE CLASHES**  
8th November  
TBA - Ashburton FC vs Melbourne Uni FC  
8:15pm - Heidelberg FC vs Pascoe Vale FC  
9:00pm - FC Richmond vs EFA Eagles  
9:45pm - Fitzroy FC vs Vic Vipers FC

The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday  
6.30pm on C31 & C44Digital



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### Social League competitions

- Men's & Women's Social Leagues**  
Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
- Mixed Social Leagues**  
Create a team with men & women (min 2 women)
- Junior Leagues (boys & girls)**  
(15 to 18 year olds)  
Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
- Elite Leagues (boys & girls)**  
Only for elite players -

### Training

- Social League training**  
for teams & individuals - improve skills & fitness, including goal keeper training
- Elite training**  
high level training includes goal keeper training
- Junior training**  
from beginners to elite  
(see 'ALL Juniors - Boys & Girls' from 2 years to 16 years of age)

### Juniors

- Preschool program**  
Fun way to start the ball rolling during school hours (1 to 5-year olds)
- Junior Oz Clinics**  
Beginners introduction to Futsal (3 to 9 years old)
- School Holiday Program**  
Every school holidays Futsal all day training & games
- Social Junior Leagues**  
Create a team, for fun weekly scheduled matches (Mixed boys & Girls)

### Elite Juniors

- Futsal training**  
(INNER City FC for teams & individuals- skills, tactics & match (twice a week + match)
- Elite Futsal League**  
Join an elite Club, elite skills, technic, tactics & fitness, includes representative squads interstate and overseas tournaments.
- Elite Futsal training**  
high level training includes goal keeper training

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There is no doubt that this week in football has been dominated by the appointment of Ange Postecoglou as the new socceros coach. The amount of hype that has surrounded the news has been amazing. So much so that even the ridiculously AFL bias Herald Sun succumbed to the beautiful game by giving the great man a double page spread in their Sunday edition.

With the hype comes expectation and social media has been flogged by discussions of how the national team will line up with the new man in the hot seat. Many people are hoping for fast paced, passionate, attacking football similar to that of likes of Borussia Dortmund.

**Jan Aage Fjortoft** @JanAageFjortoft 23 Oct  
Usain Bolt 100 m running : 9, 58  
Dortmund 100 m counterattack: 9, 55

Of course, to play like Dortmund you need world-class players but maybe there is more than a hint of sarcasm in TVs the B-League's assessment of one Robbie Cornthwaite.

**Sam Mac & Jules** @thebleague 25 Mar  
Messi has been described as "The Argentinian Cornthwaite"

For me though it's a shame that we don't have a Zlatan Ibrahimovic wearing the green and gold. The diminutive Swede is so good he even assists his own goals.

There is no doubt in my mind that Ange Postecoglou is the right man to lead the national team. He is one of the most successful domestic coaches of all time winning two titles with South Melbourne and two with the Brisbane Roar. However, after his recent appointment, many people mentioned Ange's Melbourne Victory legacy, but as one disgruntled Sydney fan pointed out that particular legacy is a pretty hollow one.

Kevin Muscat said it is going to be an amazing journey to Brazil and beyond and if anybody has any reservations about how the new boss will reorganize his troops just check this out.

## Victorian Greeks Do It Better (In football anyway...)

The 5th Oceania Pan-Hellenic Games were held in Canberra last weekend and a great time was had by all as many made the trek to the capital from all around Australia.

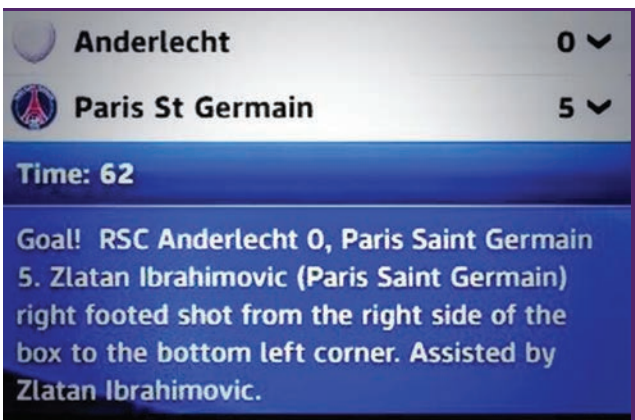
NSW topped the medal tally with 38 Gold medals and Vctoria finished runners-up with 21 Gold medals. In the football category Victoria was well represented in the final stakes with the Women's Team just missing out on a gold medal to NSW, whilst the Open Boys team beat ACT on penalties and the Victorian Masters team beat NSW to take out top honours.

The Oakleigh connection was quite strong in the Victorian line ups as Football Galaxy's Tom & Nick Gamaras turned out for the Masters team, whilst KINISI's Con Tagalaki coached the Open Mens.to glory.

Here we see all the Victorian teams pose together after a successful weekend. Opa! Opa!



Compiled by Roy Skillen



**Leigh Broxham Facts** @BroxyFacts 25 Oct  
When Leigh Broxham once got to training late, Ange Postecoglou punished the rest of the squad for being early.. #BroxyFacts

Of course, there was talk of an interim coach taking over until after the World Cup with names such as Terry Venables and Guus Hiddink being banded about while my own twitter campaign for Glenn Hoddle was met with scorn and ridicule.

**Dannyboy** @danieljshaw 14 Oct  
@AussieSoccer lol, hoddle! Couldn't coach a dog, not to mention a football club! Our search doesn't need to be that wide! :-P

As far as the A-League goes, an amazing Sydney Derby showed us exactly how far this great sport has come in this country with 40,000 fans creating an atmosphere worthy of any league in the world.

**Adam Peacock** @adampeacock3 10h  
More steps forward for the @aleague



last nite.. Jaw-dropping atmos in Sydney, quality football in both games & a brass band #goodtimes

Western Sydney finished as 2-0 winners with the little Japanese master Shinji Ono the star of the night scoring one and creating havoc all night. The defeat was another disappointment for Sydney Utd who looked blunt up from without the injured Alessandro Del Piero leading the line.

**Stephanie.** @MissSydneyFC 9h  
Ahh, @SydneyFC. I will always support you, but a lot needs to change. We're wasting our time with the greatest player in the league..

There is even call from some for Frank Farina to move aside.

**Jordan Lo Russo** @jordan\_lorusso 8h  
#FarinaOut #RudanIn

For any problems that Sydney FC may have behind the scenes there is no doubting that their captain is still the classiest man in the league taking on the most difficult of footballing questions in his usual cool, calm and collective manner.

**Dean Rosario** @DeanRosario 24 Oct  
"Asking to choose between Messi and Ronaldo, is like choosing between your Mum & Dad." Ale Del Piero, with the perfect answer!

Some did question his motivation behind such a diplomatic answer.

**George Mpiokas** @OlympicGM 24 Oct  
@4attheback @DeanRosario was he calling Ronaldo a girl? #Messianyday

As for Ange Posecoglou's first Socceroo's eleven, how close will this guy be.

**Bob Murphy** @sportsnutchob81 23 Oct  
@james\_r\_mcgrath @AussieSoccer langerak, McGowan, Williams, jedinak, Lowry, Milligan, Luongo, kruse, Rogic, oar, Leckie



Mark Boric

I've noticed the old occer newspapers like Soccer World and Soccer Action often would give match ratings alongside their match report. I'd like to bring back this back, but a simple number between 0 to 10 or stars between 0 to 5 will not suffice. Instead I will grade matches in line with the various football-themed tv shows currently doing the rounds.

This means the best matches would be given the Santo, Sam and Ed's Total Football rating, whilst most games involving Perth Glory and Newcastle Jets will quickly be consigned to the rating of Thursday FC. In between are Matchday Saturday, Sunday Shoot-Out and Kick-Off.

Last week began with Victory and Roar, which gets a Matchday Saturday ranking. Saturday saw the Marners and Adelaide United play out a Sunday Shoot-Out before the Sydney Derby delivered a Matchday Saturday. Sunday brought about a pair of Thursday FC's from the Phoenix and Jets and then Glory and Heart. The system should be as clear as day.

Are SBS really naming their A-League Player of the Season Award after Les Murray? Whilst Les is the doyen of football broadcasting in Australia, surely such an award would be better named in tribute of a former player? Notwithstanding that this is the first year that SBS

have been broadcasting A-League games, meaning he hardly has a long association with the competition. In fact, previously he is better known for having given the A-League a paltry mark out of 5 in terms of quality. At least it fits in with a New Football theme, having changed his name from it's original Old Soccer version before there even was New Football.

Sydney FC released the injured Pascal Bosschaart during the week. Having appeared in an interview on the inaugural Thursday FC and then the reversing a trailer competition on Kick-Off, not landing a gig as an intruder on Big Brother saw him deemed surplus to requirements.

Sir Alex Ferguson was back in the headlines after releasing a book which media reports suggest is basically him slagging off players. His own players are not spared, but he shows great club loyalty by making ridiculous statements about a couple from rival clubs. Australia's own Mark Bosnich was labelled unprofessional, not a revelation to anyone who saw him when he hit around 120kg and had his career pretty much ended by testing positive for cocaine.

AGAINST ALL ODDS	
A-League Title 2013/14	
Wanderers	5.00
Central Coast Mariners	5.00
Brisbane Roar	5.50
Melbourne Victory	5.00
Adelaide United	9.00
Sydney FC	11.0
Melbourne Heart	13.0
Perth Glory	17.0
Wellington Phoenix	17.0
Newcastle Jets	23.0



The Gong Show still sets the benchmark for quality television

## Eastern Lions Events

**3rd November** - 10am Sunday morning clinic, 11:30am under 14 game, 1pm Youth team game

**10th November** - 10am Sunday morning clinic, 11:30am under 14 game, 1pm Youth team game  
**17th November** - UK Cup from 10am onwards. 8 Teams participating, further details to follow.

**20th November** - 10am Sunday morning clinic, 11:30am under 14 game, 1pm Youth team game

**30th November** - Billy Whiteside Cup - 12 Legends England -v- Scotland then at 2pm Sons of Legends. Free BBQ, drinks at club prices, online auction via Club Bid with all proceeds going to The Royal Children's Hospital. Raffle on the day and live entertainment after the games.

## Golf Day Fundraiser

Preston Lions will hold its 2nd Annual Gold Day Fundraiser on Sunday 24th November at the Growling Frog Gold Course, 1910 Donnybrook Road, Yan Yean.

Cost per player is \$159 which includes 18 holes of golf, lunch and drinks.

The fee also includes a 2014 PLFC Season Pass Membership. For further details contact Danny on 0403 211 771 or Chris on 0419 305 556





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# What is wrong with Mexican football?



## Latin Wrap

Francis Fields

The last few weeks have been a disaster for Mexican football and its standing in both the world game and CONCACAF.

The saving grace is thanks to a World Cup qualifying system in CONCACAF that many would agree is kind, Mexico is still more likely than not to get past New Zealand and participate in Brazil next summer.

This 2013 season however was coined differently, as improvements were predicted to develop. Just over a year ago in London at the Olympics football tournament, Mexico won gold, arguably its greatest achievement. Plenty of unsettled changes have followed.

The Mexican federation ousted Jose Manuel "Chepo" de la Torre and in came Luis Fernando Tena for the game against the United States on September 10.

Following the defeat, Victor Manuel Vucetich was announced as the new manager and, with a win and a loss, he was gone too. Now comes America's Miguel Herrera.

For the record, that is four coaches take on the role of national team boss within six weeks. One would think the Socceros were in strife in search of a new coach, whilst Mexico's old foe the United States have only had four coaches in the past 18 years.

No doubt, the managerial changes at the helm of "El Tri" is unsettling and have left fans scratching their heads wondering just what on earth is happening.

One managerial decision has gone to such lengths that one Mexican midfield veteran got a surprise call-up, while another awaited a response from FIFA to see if he could suit up for "El Tri".

Naturalized Mexican players are in a game of musical chairs at present with "El Tri".

Tigres' Argentine-born playmaker Lucas Lobos was forced out of Miguel Herrera's squad to face a friendly international against Finland because of family issues while another, Another in America's Argentine-born midfielder Rubens Sambueza pending on a FIFA decision having had already represented his native country at under-17 level.

Toluca's Sinha, was called in to take Lobos' place and has travelled to southern California with the squad.

The 37-year-old, born in Brazil, declared his surprise at his call to the national team to reporters at the Mexico City airport before leaving for San Diego. He also indicated he can't see himself playing in the World Cup, should Mexico get there.

There have also been strenuous



Playmaker Giovanni Dos Santos was critical on the current woes in Mexico

relations between the media and those in charge in the Mexican federation with accusations of wrongdoing and a conflict of interest in off-field investments.

At club level, the CONCACAF Champions League saw giants América lose to Costa Rica's Alajuelense. Last Tuesday as the national team appointed coach Herrera, he had his farewell in charge as Las Aguilas embarrassed themselves losing 1-0 and sent crashing out of the tournament, becoming only the second Mexican team to fail to pass through the group stage.

There were episodes of ill discipline from America's players when chasing the game and it all didn't go well as a farewell at the Azteca stadium, the same stadium where Herrera will be expected to get a win against New Zealand on November 13. In fact, it was thanks to United States' equaliser and subsequent winner to knock out Panama the sole reason Mexico has a consolation play-off series against the All Whites.

In terms of CONCACAF, it was another huge blow to Mexican pride; America sits on top of the Liga MX, is reigning champion and played a full first team against the Costa Rican club.

While national team players having plenty of time together training before the New Zealand games is obviously positive, the knock-on effect is a lack of credibility for the Liga MX.

Twenty domestic-based Mexicans will miss this weekend's action, as

well as the potentially crucial last round of games due to national team duty.

León is both pushing for a play-off place and a berth in next year's Copa Libertadores, yet will play high-flyer Toluca on Saturday without four important players.

Another issue at domestic club level is the potential sale of club Atlas. An extraordinary meeting was held and has been decided the club will go on sale to yet another private ownership by the 18th of November.

The Guadalajara-based club valued at \$60m and in serious economic strife, a buy-out will relieve pressure with players receiving late wages, on the verge of relegation. Atlas has not lifted a domestic trophy since season 1950-51. The only bright note is next week's MX Cup final against Morelia to help solve its long trophy drought.

So this leads to the question: who is running what in Mexico?

Jorge Vergara appearing at the federation's press conference to announce Herrera as coach was perplexing. The Chivas and Herbalife company owner - once working with John van 't Schipp at his club, has a somewhat less than sparkling record of hiring and firing managers at his own club.

But despite the supposed split between the Liga MX and the federation in June 2012, the 18 Liga MX clubs owners still have a say in what is going on at the national team.

There is confusion about who actually makes the decisions with the

owners, the federation and television companies all wielding a degree of influence.

All this could pay a heavy price for Mexico as a near-disaster on the pitch has highlighted, certainly indicating that at national team level it is not the way to run operations. Then came a scathing attack by legend Hugo Sánchez with an article penned in El Universal newspaper website on the state of the Mexican game that was a succinct and rational attack on Mexico's football hegemonic establishment.

"It has to change, whether Mexico qualifies or doesn't qualify," reflected Sánchez. "There is no other remedy than changing the way Mexican football is being run."

Outside of the country, Hugo Sánchez is still Mexico's football ambassador when it comes to football and when he speaks on such issues, people tend to listen.

Another who has spoken out in criticism is Villarreal's flamboyant play maker Giovanni Dos Santos, claiming on Spanish newspaper El Pais that the mix-up in styles has brought Mexico to play without any. The midfielder quoted as saying that nobody in the national squad knows what to do on the pitch.

Dos Santos' response to the absence to goalscorer Carlos Vela in the national squad reiterates the reasons why the media launch continuous attacks on the European-based players.

"Four coaches in a month says it all", As Javier "Chicharito" Hernández

has bagged in three goals in the last two matches for Manchester United, one would hope he and his side could play a role in next year's coveted World Cup despite New Zealand's tough obstacle for qualification.

### World Cup teams booking their bunkers

The 32 teams that qualify for next year's World Cup finals have 83 base camps to choose from with Argentina and the United States two who have already decided where they will stay.

Argentina will be based in Belo Horizonte at Atlético Mineiro's training complex and the U.S. will stay in Sao Paulo, Brazil's Sports Minister said.

Brazilian officials announced the finished list of 83 on Tuesday, each consisting of a training centre with football pitches and a partner hotel.

Many of centres are owned by Brazil's top clubs, with facilities from Cruzeiro, Corinthians and Santos among those included.

Some 25 teams have already chosen their preferred destination and others will have until January to make a decision. The World Cup draw takes place on December 6.

Most of the 83 centres are in the more developed south of the country, with more than a third in Sao Paulo state.

### Scolari slams Costa for turning his back on Brazil

Brazil head coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has slammed Diego Costa's decision to represent Spain ahead of the country of his birth.

Costa's international future has been subject to much conjecture, with Brazil and Spain both declaring their intention to select the 25-year-old, who qualifies for both teams via dual-nationality.

The Atletico Madrid striker ended the speculation on Tuesday, though, signing a letter to the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) confirming his intention to switch his allegiance to the world and European champions. Scolari had selected Costa, who has won two caps for Brazil, for their friendlies with Honduras and Chile next month.

However, the forward has now been withdrawn from the squad, with Scolari criticising Costa for "turning his back on a dream of millions" by choosing to reject Brazil ahead of the 2014 FIFA World Cup, which is to be staged in the South American country next year.

"A Brazilian player who refuses to wear the shirt of the Brazilian national team and compete in a World Cup in your country is automatically withdrawn," Scolari said in a statement. "He is turning his back on a dream of millions, to represent our national team, the five-time champions in a World Cup in Brazil."

Costa has scored 13 goals for Atletico so far this season, a run of form that has seen the Spanish capital club rise to second in La Liga.

### Falcao thrilled with Ballon d'Or nomination

Monaco striker Radamel Falcao expressed his delight at being named on the shortlist for the 2013 Ballon d'Or award.

The Colombia international was among the 23 players nominated for the prestigious honour, joining the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Gareth Bale in being named.

Falcao scored 12 goals in 20 games after the turn of the year for Atletico Madrid, earning a €60million move to free-spending Ligue 1 newcomers Monaco.

The 27-year-old has justified that lofty price-tag with a return of eight goals in 11 top-flight performances. And he is delighted his performances have been recognised by his nomination, with the winner due to be announced in January.

"I am very happy to be here for the second time consecutively on the list of 23 finalists for the Ballon d'Or," he told the club's official website.

"I thank God to be present on this list, with 23 excellent footballers. "(It brings) great pride for me, Monaco and also for my country."

Ligue 1 will also be represented on the shortlist by Paris Saint-Germain trio Edinson Cavani, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Thiago Silva.

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Parkville

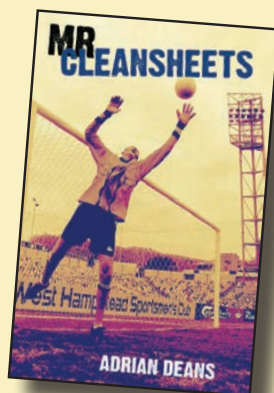
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Leroy Robinson

"We looked like the away team, we played in a difficult atmosphere with almost no support. We have a wonderful set of fans but they can do better. Away from home we play with no fear and we need that atmosphere at White Hart Lane. We don't need the negativity that was at White Hart Lane today."

In a BBC interview after the game against Hull, Andre Vilas Boas did something that many a manager has probably felt like doing: he criticised his club's supporters.

But is he out of order? Is it up to the fans to respond to the performance of the players or vice versa? Coming on the back of a humiliating 3-0 defeat at home to West Ham, the visit of Hull City is hardly something the fans can get worked up about. So who is to blame for the funereal atmosphere at White Hart Lane and at English grounds in general? The fans, the players, or the coach?

### A fan's job

Personally, I believe in knowing your roles. A fan's job is to get behind the team through thick and thin during 90 minutes. There is nothing that states that because your team is a heavy favourite that somehow you should cheer less and give less of an effort. Would it be acceptable for Spurs player's to give less than 100% just because they are an overwhelming favourite against Hull City? This attitude of giving your all is not easy. It goes against human nature and supporters are often saddled with the baggage of past failure (like a 3-0 home defeat to West Ham), which somehow inhibits them from fully expressing themselves.

That's not to say fans should be robots programmed not to criticise. Afterwards they can boo and complain all they want, but in my mind they should be fully supportive of the team during play. A buoyant home support energises players and, as a fan, you do not want to leave the ground thinking that if only you'd cheered a bit harder, made the atmosphere a little more intimidating, that the team may have responded. People that talk about how much the player's earn are missing the point. Human nature means we often have a tendency to take things easy, no matter how much we're getting paid. Much of football is psychology. Tottenham fans at away games are unrecognisable from their counterparts at home. They sing for almost 90 minutes without a break.

# You're not singing anymore!!



And this has something to do with being outnumbered. Anyone who has seen the film '300' knows that there's a little more camaraderie when fans are outnumbered, a little more of the underdog mentality. In short, people often fight, cheer and play harder when the chips are down because they feel they have to.

What we get now at football matches is a blend of banter that ranges from 'your support is f\*\*k\*\*g s\*\*\*' to the classic serenade from away fans of 'you're supposed to be at home.' Fans have been neutered into being inoffensive. What is interesting is that in Italy fans are trying to reclaim their right to offend other fans, racially and otherwise, because it is this banter that provides talking points and an outlet for prejudices that humans have. Perhaps this says something more about our willingness to want to offend others but there's no denying that grounds these days are often like libraries, with fans afraid to chant lest they get arrested.

### A player's job

A player's job, and by implication a team's job, is to put in a winning performance that will have the fan's crowing about what they've seen. However, great support and great entertainment are not mutually exclusive. If a team performs the fans are likely to cheer and if they don't they will often be subdued. But that is all wrong. It's like asking the wood to prove it can keep you warm before you supply the fire. Fans have to bring the fire and passion to a game first and this in turn lifts the players. All too often at Old Trafford and White Hart Lane you hear the fans groan and moan more at a mis-

placed pass than they do at a good piece of skill. Do they have the right to moan? Of course, but they have to realise that games against teams like Hull or Stoke are when their team needs them most. Fans are guilty of complacency, writing opposition teams off and counting the points before they've been won. It's Big Club thinking. This, I feel, is a trap Spurs fans have fallen into. Strange, considering they are not a big club.

### Cost of tickets

This is an important factor. Fans turn up, sit in their £70 seats and treat football as though they are at The Royal Opera House. The players get an ovation at the interval and at the end of a game, but only IF they have merited one. It might do fans some good to understand that they are part of the spectacle and not passive observers. A rocking atmosphere is paramount in enhancing the spectacle inside the ground and on TV, as well as to energise players. But is this 'passive spectator mentality' an adequate explanation as to why you often feel fans at Spurs, Arsenal and Man Utd need to be checked for a pulse? The problem with the cost of tickets is that they have gradually eroded the working-class support from the game. Football is business and it's fashionable to like football. Before the players became multi-millionaires, I felt part of the team I supported, as though the club and I were one big family. As football has moved into the corporate sector, this has placed more of a divide between fans and the players.

In other countries the players will go right over to the away fans and often throw them their shirts. This acknowledgment of the

lengths supporters go to to watch their team live is very important. In England, fans are lucky to get a few claps from the halfway line before the players trot off. Players love the adulation but sometimes seem put out to make even the smallest of efforts in return.

And fans these days are seen as customers. And customers have a variety of things to keep them occupied, many of which seem to require the attention span of a fruit fly. In fact, some fans, rather than cheer and get involved, seem more interested in playing the tourist and taking pictures of the action. Fans get bored easily because people get bored easily. They adopt a wait and see approach to games. This 'let the team entertain me first' attitude has killed the atmosphere at grounds. In fact, at Spurs on Sunday one man was photographed playing Candy Crush DURING the game!

### What can be done?

Fans can take the initiative. At Spurs, there's an initiative called 1882. The idea is to recreate an atmosphere of endless singing that is not related to events on the pitch. In short, the movement would like fans to revert back to a by-gone age when they sang from the start of a match to the end and supported the team regardless of the opposition. At Manchester United they have introduced a singing section, which has helped to improve the tepid atmosphere. These are great ideas but they fall short of addressing the real issue of im-

proving the atmosphere at English football grounds: all-seater stadia. But wait. People might point north of the border to Celtic Park in Glasgow as proof that all-seater stadia are not necessarily a hindrance to a cracking atmosphere. This is correct. However, it's only on big European nights (especially when they are the underdog) that Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea and Manchester United home games have just as much atmosphere as Celtic Park.

Generally, these nights take care of themselves. It's those games against lesser opponents that fans really struggle to raise the roof for. Bringing back proper singing sections, with standing room, will allow fans that don't want to pay £70 for a ticket to turn up and sing until they're hoarse.

The bottom line is that it is up to fans to generate an atmosphere and not wait for the team to start performing on the pitch. However,

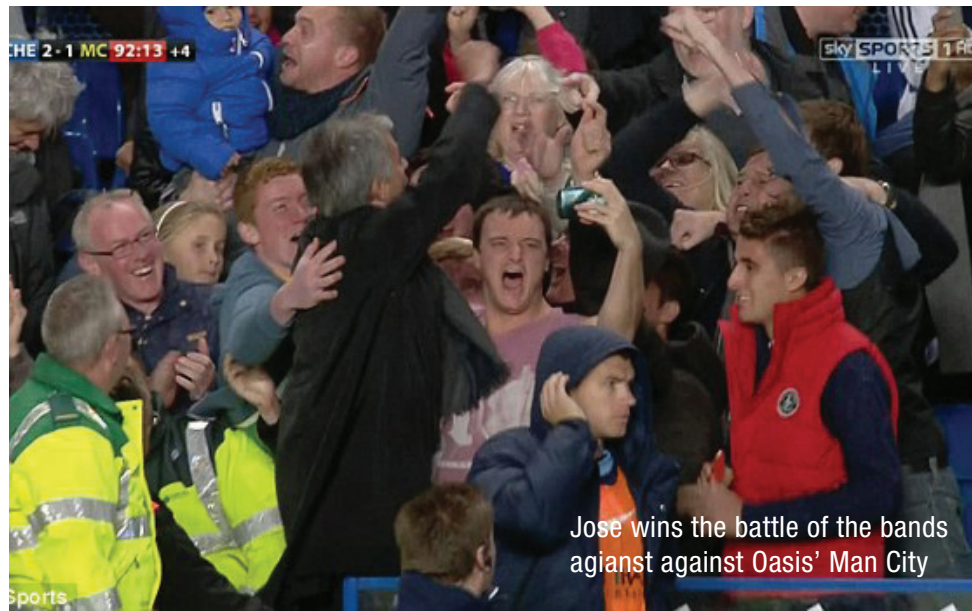
when Vilas Boas says after the game against Hull that "We have a wonderful set of fans but they can do better", he really should be careful. Spurs have a wonderful squad and they really should do better against a newly-promoted team with seven injuries to first-team players. They certainly shouldn't need a dubious penalty to settle the game. It works both ways but supporters should start supporting the team, if only to make the opposition uncomfortable. At the end of the game, if the players have not put up their end of the deal, by all means let them know this isn't acceptable with a few choice Anglo Saxon phrases.

### Classless in Victory and Defeat

Once again Jose Morinho has done his best to shun the limelight, graciously taking a last minute goal from Fernando Torres in his usual mild-mannered way by encroaching on the Manchester City technical area. In fact, the sight of Morinho dancing along the touchline and entering the crowd made me wonder if it wasn't only The Special One who was delirious.

One place where they may be offering themselves a wry smile is Old Trafford. When The Special One found out he wasn't The Chosen One, apparently he was close to tears. Well, the undignified and classless celebration of the late winner against Manchester City indicates that the Old Trafford hierarchy got things spot on in not giving him the job. A coach must conduct himself with class and some of Mourinho's antics have been anything but. Say what you like about David Moyes but the way he conducts himself on the touchline is respectful to both colleagues and officials.

Don't get me wrong, Mourinho is one of the best coaches ever, and maybe his antics make him the coach that he is. But that doesn't mean we have to like them.

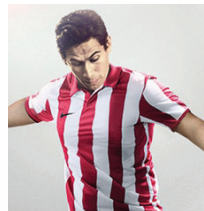


Jose wins the battle of the bands against Oasis' Man City

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## Barclays Premier League

Andrew Bishara

### Moyes Getting To Grips With United?

David Moyes was looking at another terrible week. In the first 45 minutes, Manchester United had found itself 2-1 down to Stoke City at Old Trafford, thanks to goals by Peter Crouch and Marko Arnautovic either side of Robin Van Persie strike.

Then in typical Manchester United fashion, it scored two late goals and won 3-2. It was Moyes' first taste of the kind of dramatic comeback that was a feature of Sir Alex Ferguson's reign.

One of the biggest gripes in the Moyes' reign so far has been that he has been too defensive. Being in charge for Everton for over 10 years, the Scot was always inclined to shut-up-shop to grab the points.

But United is a different type of beast. There has to be more style to its substance. When Moyes elected to shut down last week's game against Southampton, it came back to bite him, as the Saints snatched a deserved equaliser.

So when United found itself 2-1 down, Moyes needed to act. In a way, it was a great opportunity for him to show the Old Trafford faithful that he has the guts to make the tough calls.

Moving his chest pieces exactly like his predecessor would, Moyes introduced a trio of attacking intent after the hour mark.

Throwing on new-kid-on-the-block Adnan Januzaj, then Javier Hernandez and Antonio Valencia in the space of 20 minutes, United pushed forward and were duly rewarded.



Wayne Rooney comes to the rescue for Man Utd and scores against Stoke

Wayne Rooney, who has been reborn under Moyes, and Hernandez scored in two minutes to grab a much-needed win to keep United in the title hunt.

The United boss hailed his side's belief to never give up. "It was a big moment when you're 2-1 down with 10 or 15 minutes to go," he said. "It was a big moment to win the game. "Hopefully we can continue to win games. If it's in the same fashion then we'll take it, but if we can make it a bit easier it will be great for the old ticker."

### Wayne Rooney, who has been reborn under Moyes, and Hernandez scored in two minutes to grab a much-needed win to keep United in the title hunt.

Midfielder Michael Carrick believed that the win could kick-start United's season and help them catch the big boys at the start.

"We kept going and believing we'd get there and we did," said Carrick.


"We left it late, but we've proved over the years it sometimes does take until the last few minutes to score and win the game. "It's the character we have – it was a vital game to win. We didn't really have a choice, we had to find a way to win. We kept going and believing, and ended up finding that win."

Carrick admitted that the players had to get back to their "normal selves" and that they are "not in bad shape" but are far from their best. Moyes will be hoping that his side can continue their form over the next fortnight with a bunch of winnable games. It faces Norwich City midweek in the Capitol One Cup (League Cup), before travelling to Craven Cottage next week to face Fulham.

Then it's off to San Sebastian for its Champions League clash with Real Sociedad and finally welcoming league leaders Arsenal to Old Trafford.

ENGLAND

EPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Arsenal	9	7	1	1	20	9	+11	22	WWDWW
2 Chelsea	9	6	2	1	16	6	+10	20	WWWDW
3 Liverpool	9	6	2	1	17	8	+9	20	DWDDWL
4 Tottenham Hotspur	9	6	1	2	9	5	+4	19	WWLDW
5 Southampton	9	5	3	1	10	3	+7	18	WDWWWW
6 Everton	9	5	3	1	14	10	+4	18	WWLWW
7 Manchester City	9	5	1	3	21	11	+10	16	LWWLW
8 Manchester United	9	4	2	3	14	12	+2	14	DWDLL
9 Swansea City	9	3	2	4	12	11	+1	11	DWLLW
10 Hull City	9	3	2	4	7	10	-3	11	LLDWW
11 Newcastle United	9	3	2	4	12	16	-4	11	LDWLL
12 West Bromwich ...	9	2	4	3	8	10	-2	10	LLDWW
13 Aston Villa	9	3	1	5	9	12	-3	10	LLDWW
14 Fulham	9	3	1	5	9	12	-3	10	LWWLL
15 West Ham United	9	2	3	4	8	8	+0	9	DLWLL
16 Cardiff City	9	2	3	4	8	13	-5	9	DLWL
17 Stoke City	9	2	2	5	6	10	-4	8	LDLLL
18 Norwich City	9	2	2	5	6	13	-7	8	DLWLL
19 Sunderland	9	1	1	7	7	21	-14	4	WLLLL
20 Crystal Palace	9	1	0	8	6	19	-13	3	LLLLL

### EPL Preview

**It you want to talk about a tough run of fixtures, just look at Arsenal over the next two weeks.**

The Gunners face Chelsea in the Capitol One Cup this Wednesday morning, before facing Liverpool to the Emirates, then travelling to Dortmund and finally Old Trafford.

Much has been made of Arsenal's title credentials this season. The next two weeks will help make it clearer if the Gunners are pretenders or contenders.

The League Cup clash might not be the biggest one of the lot, considering of rumours that both sides might field understrength line-ups. Regardless, it will be massive opportunity to showcase that the Gunners are up for the long fight. The Gunners' impressive 2-0 win over Crystal Palace with only 10 men, suggested that the team has overcome its "soft-centre".

Arsene Wenger was quick to point out that his side has the belief to fight for the title, but will take games as they come.

"We always had a high level of aspiration. It is people who do not believe that we have a chance but the only thing we can do is win our games," he said.

"It is people who do not believe that we have a chance, but the

only thing we can do is win our games,"

"The only thing which is important is every win makes you a bit stronger and strengthens the belief.

"We have difficult games coming up, and that will be a good test, but I am confident."

Next weekend's clash with Liverpool will prove to be tasty one. Liverpool has surprised many with its ability to mix its flowing style of play with hard working substance.

Sitting third on table, Liverpool has the chance to be league leaders, at the end of the weekend, if they can beat the Gunners and Chelsea don't win against Newcastle United.

However manager Brendan Rodgers has put talk of Liverpool's title hopes to bed, by electing not to talk about it.

"We are taking each game [as it comes]," said Rodgers.

"After 10 games you have a little look but we will assess it as we go along."

It's hot run of form has come down to brilliant form of its front duo of Daniel Sturridge and Luis Suarez, who's scored six goals in three games since he's return from suspension.

Brazilian midfielder, Lucas Leiva

Latest Results		Next Match	
Crystal Palace 0 - 2 Arsenal	Newcastle United v Chelsea	Aston Villa 0 - 2 Everton	Fulham v Manchester United
Liverpool 4 - 1 WBA	Hull City v Sunderland	Man Utd 3 - 2 Stoke City	Manc City v Norwich City
Norwich City 0 - 0 Cardiff City	Stoke City v Southampton	Southampton 2 - 0 Fulham	WBA v Crystal Palace
Sunderland 2 - 1 Newcastle U	West Ham v Aston Villa	Chelsea 2 - 1 Manchester City	Arsenal v Liverpool
Swansea City 0 - 0 West Ham	Everton v Tottenham	Tottenham 1 - 0 Hull City	Cardiff City v Swansea City

**One To Watch This Weekend...**  
**Everton have surprised many with how easily they have adapted to Roberto Martinez's fluency philosophy. They face a tough task, welcoming Tottenham to Goodison Park.**

# Saints Alive: Mauricio's Men On The March



## London Eye

Robert Davis

As we make our way into the fourth month of the Premier League season, things start to become more apparent. Teams who are expected to fight for relegation have been clearly highlighted and European spots are now only available to a select group. The clubs currently occupying the top eight places in the league are to be, for the most part, expected. The 'top six' sides all sit somewhere within that structure alongside, unsurprisingly, Everton, who have finished amongst the top seven for the past seven seasons.

Look a little closer though and you'll find an infiltrator within the 'elite' clubs of the top flight. A side that in their last match against Fulham had six English players in their starting eleven and nine overall in their match day squad. A side that has the second best defensive record within the top leagues in Europe, behind only Serie A table-toppers Roma. A side that have taken four points from trips to Anfield and Old Trafford already this season.

Mauricio Pottechino's Southampton side are beginning to turn heads

with performances that don't display elements of fluke or fortune, without relying on a star-player to single handedly win points, or count on a hot-shot striker to supply 99.9% of their goals.

Other sides that have broken away to have an outstanding season cutting it with the Champions League regulars have all had one or more of these elements. Ipswich Town in their amazing 2000/2001 season had Marcus Stewart providing more than a third of their goals, scoring 19 for the promoted side. Hull City in the first half of the 2008/2009 season had newly recruited Brazilian Giovanni to thank for scoring a series of wonder goals to propel them into the top half of the table. For the Saints though, it looks and feels as if they belong.

Only three goals have been conceded so far and Argentinian Pottechino has implemented a fast-paced, high pressing style alongside slick passing and an injection of youth that is normally strictly associated with the Barcelona's of this world.

Many will argue that what Southampton have that others don't is an influx of cash provided by chairman Nicola Cortese. With £36 million spent over the summer, it's certainly a sum that not many within the league can simply cough up. But it's who you spend the money on that makes the difference and the Saints have spent wisely in areas that needed strengthening.



Jay Rodriguez has been a revelation for Mauricio Pottechino's Southampton this season.

Dejan Lovren arrived for £8.5 million from Olympique Lyonnais and has not only forged a formidable yet stylishly comfortable partnership with José Fonte, the Croatian centre-back has already doubled his transfer value in the space of nine games in the Premier League. A match winner against Liverpool has already endeared him to the St.Mary's faithful, but it's his reading of the game that has really got fans talking, allowing Pottechino to implement a risky high-line strategy.

In the midfield area where Morgan Schneiderlin and Jack Cork proved main-stays throughout the whole of last season, the much touted Victor Wanyama was brought in from Celtic with high expectations and a £12.5 million price tag over his head. With the likes of Manchester United and Liverpool sniffing around for the 22-year-old's services, Southampton pulled off somewhat of a coup in gaining his signature. Next to Schneiderlin and at the expense of Cork, the Kenyan has been just as important to the

remarkable lack of goals conceded as the defence and seems to get through two players worth of work a match. If he adds more care to his passing, Wanyama could become one of the best defensive-midfielders in the game.

The big-money signing came from Rome via the wardrobe of Johnny Depp in the shape of Dani Osvaldo. The Italian international ended last season as Roma's leading goal-scorer but has yet failed to set the Premier League alight with just one goal to his name so far. Whilst the extravagant 27-year-old's form can be put down to acclimatisation in a different league, it can also be argued the form of Jay Rodriguez and Adam Lallana along with England international Rickie Lambert have stopped Osvaldo from earning a regular place in the team.

This is a squad that don't forget also boasts Uruguayan play-maker Gastón Ramirez who arrived only last year for the equally hefty price of £12 million. Albeit a reported fall out with Pottechino has limited his first team opportunities, but it's the realisation that the South-Coast side can not only survive without such a player, but play as if he is no longer needed. Not once have the Saints been crying out for Ramirez to light up a game or save them from the clutches of defeat.

Alongside the new signings sit a healthy amount of youth players produced by the much revered Southampton youth system that have nurtured the likes of Gareth



Bale and Theo Walcott in previous years. The emergence of Luke Shaw and James Ward-Prowse from the Saints academy alongside 22-year-old Nathaniel Clyne, purchased from Crystal Palace last year, have proved that it isn't just money being thrown around to achieve Premier League stabilisation. Both Clyne and Shaw have cemented their places within a youthful looking back-line to become two of the most consistent performing full-backs in the league at just a combined age of 40.

The question everyone is asking though is how long can the Saints keep this up? A dangerously high defensive line along with intense pressure on the opposing team in the last third seems like a recipe for disaster if you're not Barcelona. A tough end to November and a gruelling December schedule which sees them play Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur and Everton will truly show the pedigree of Pottechino's men.





## Serie A

Luca Cetta

### Dream Verona start halted at Inter

Newly promoted and eager to make up for lost time, Verona have impressed at the start of the new Serie A season.

'Donkeys will fly before you reach Serie A' was an oft-repeated Hellas Verona fan taunt aimed at neighbours Chievo. At the time, Chievo were a Serie B club - in itself an achievement. But for supporters of the city's more illustrious club, they would never mix it with the big boys.

Then in 2001, Chievo were promoted to Serie A. While they were busying shocking the country on their way to fifth spot, Verona were relegated. It proved to be the start of a decade-long nightmare for the Butei.

Verona were never serious contenders for a quick return, instead floundering in the cadetti. Relegation to Serie C1 in 2007 followed, before they were saved from a further demotion minutes from the end of their play-off. Approaching the midway point of 2010-11 Verona were stuck in the relegation zone. They made a crucial coaching appointment - Andrea Mandorlini was



Verona's flying start to the Serie A season hit turbulence at Inter but bounced back with a 2-0 win over Sampdoria midweek.

installed and immediately resuscitated the fallen giant.

They made the play-offs and earned promotion to Serie B, then very nearly to Serie A in successive seasons. Verona fell in the play-offs, but were wiser for the experience. Last term the Veronesi were one of three clubs promoted. 11 years after their last campaign in Serie A, Verona had finally returned.

A club which has experienced the lows are now ready to relive the highs. Their start to the season rekindled memories of the historic 1984-85 Scudetto-winning season. Few are suggesting they'll be around the mark come the end of this term, but taking on Italy's biggest clubs is where the Gialloblu should be.

Six points from the opening four games - a start which included Milan, Roma and Juventus on the fixture list - was a dream opening. Successive wins over Livorno,

Bologna and Parma took Verona to heights not experienced since the mid 1980s.

His Fiorentina contract not renewed in the summer, veteran Luca Toni has started in fine fashion. He headed a matchwinning brace on the opening day against Milan and scored again in the 4-1 demolition at Bologna. There are even whispers Toni could be an outside chance for Cesare Prandelli's Brazil 2014 squad.

At the other end of the career scale, Jorginho and Juan Iturbe have impressed. The Brazilian - also in line for an Azzurri place thanks to his Italian passport - is wanted by some of Italy and England's biggest clubs. Jorginho scored five goals in four consecutive matches - four from the penalty spot - including a second half double versus Parma. That allowed Verona to secure a comeback 3-2 win and mourn the passing of former President Giovanni Martinelli, whose

## ITALY

## Serie A



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Roma	9	9	0	0	23	1	+22	27	W W W W W
2 Napoli	10	8	1	1	22	7	+15	25	W W L W W
3 Juventus	10	8	1	1	22	10	+12	25	W W L W W
4 Internazionale	10	5	4	1	24	12	+12	19	D W D L D
5 Hellas Verona	10	6	1	3	20	16	+4	19	W L W W W
6 Fiorentina	10	5	3	2	20	13	+7	18	L W W D D
7 Lazio	10	4	3	3	15	13	+2	15	D W L D D
8 Udinese	10	4	1	5	11	11	+0	13	W L L W L
9 Atalanta	10	4	1	5	12	13	-1	13	D L W W W
10 Milan	10	3	3	4	17	17	+0	12	D L W L W
11 Parma	10	3	3	4	16	18	-2	12	L W L W D
12 Torino	10	2	5	3	16	18	-2	11	D L D D L
13 Genoa	10	3	2	5	9	14	-5	11	W L W D L
14 Cagliari	10	2	4	4	10	17	-7	10	L L W L D
15 Livorno	10	2	3	5	12	16	-4	9	D L L L L
16 Sampdoria	10	2	3	5	9	16	-7	9	L W W D L
17 Bologna	10	2	3	5	13	22	-9	9	W W L L L
18 Catania	10	1	3	6	6	17	-11	6	L D L D W
19 Sassuolo	10	1	3	6	8	24	-16	6	L D W L D
20 Chievo	9	1	1	7	7	17	-10	4	L L L L L

reign oversaw promotion from the third tier. Observers from Arsenal, Chelsea and Prandelli's staff were in the stands.

Iturbe is another to be linked with big clubs. Signed on loan from Porto, the Argentine has netted twice. Verona have an option to sign him permanently at the end of the season. Porto - great judges of young talent - had no room in the side and so Iturbe moved to Serie A. There are suggestions Verona will work out an agreement with another club to co-own the player and ease the financial burden, should they pursue a permanent deal.

Heading into the Round 9 clash with Inter, Verona actually sat above the Nerazzurri, a reflection of their great start. But Mandorlini was wary. "We are not better than Inter. If we were to think any differently, defeat would be assured." He also looked to cool expectations. "Our fans can dream whatever thoughts they want. But we can't

think we're already safe."

It's a particularly special fixture for Mandorlini. Popular as he may be with the fans in Verona, his heart lies at Appiano Gentile. Mandorlini represented Inter for seven seasons and was part of their devastating 1988-89 Scudetto-winning team. Inter had stuttered to two draws and a loss in their last three matches, ending an encouraging season start. But they raced out of the blocks here. Jonathan and Rodrigo Palacio put the home side two goals to the good inside nine minutes.

Raphael Martino, another summer signing, gave Verona hope just past the half-hour, but Inter quickly restored their buffer as Esteban Cambiasso netted. Rolando bundled home a fourth and despite Romulo's goal, it was the Nerazzurri's evening.

"We made some silly mistakes and paid a heavy price for them," bemoaned Mandorlini, who felt they played well otherwise. "We

conceded three goals on set plays and were too soft in those defensive situations. You can be unlucky if it's one, but that many in one match means you aren't focused enough."

A setback for Verona, but they quickly have the chance to rectify the situation. Following a midweek meeting with Sampdoria comes clashes with Cagliari and Genoa. Then it's the Derby della Scala against Chievo, to be played for the first time since 2001-02. They'll meet Fiorentina after that and Mandorlini is eyeing improvement. "We can do better, but above all must learn we can't keep making mistakes against the top clubs. We paid for those against Roma, Juventus and now Inter."

That he can be disappointed by going to Inter, challenging and be left wondering what may have been is testament to their fantastic opening.



## Viva Espana

Pepe Lopez

### Neymar Shines As Bale Doubts Grow

Brazilian 21 year old sensation Neymar da Silva Santos Júnior stole the show in his first ever El Clasico. The Clash of the Titans football match between cultural arch-rivals Real Madrid at FC Barcelona, do not come any bigger than this fixture, and the man tipped to be the next best Brazilian footballer since anyone of Ronaldo, Ronaldinho or Romario passed his test with flying colours.

Neymar opened the scoring after just 19 minutes. Spaniard Andres Iniesta slipped a short through ball to Neymar out on the left side of the Real Madrid penalty area, with some 4 or 5 Real Madrid defenders crowded in front of their goal keeper Diego Lopez, somehow Neymar threaded a low curving shot into the far post of the Real Madrid goal, just past the reach of Lopez.

French striker Karim Benzema himself struggling for form, replaced record signing Gareth Bale after an hour of play. Benzema's



Neymar opens the scoring for Barca in the El Clasico against Real

entry to the Camp Nou playing arena sparked Real Madrid's most enterprising sequence of play. Ronaldo appeared to be completely bundled over with a push from behind by Barca defender Javier Mascherano, appeals were waved away by referee Alberto Undiano Mallenco. With the ball still in play, Karim Benzema unleashed his frustration at the decision with a stunning shot that cannoned off the crossbar, the rattle and vibration could be heard from up on the 5th level of the Camp Nou Stadium.

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti was furious with referee Mallenco;

"The penalty seems very clear, it seems that everyone has seen it, but not the referee, who has not called it. I think in the second half the

game was very good. We pushed more, played more, we had control of the game and we had good chances to score. The team fought toe to toe against a very difficult team, and by the end we had them on the ropes, it's rare that you see Barcelona trying to waste time at the end of a game. But there were two clear penalties and although I don't like to try and justify defeats by talking about referees, there are some things you cannot fight against."

Just as it appeared as though Real Madrid were getting their claws back into the game, Brazilian Neymar popped up to put an end to the visitor's challenge. Against the run of play, Neymar put Chilean forward Alexis Sanchez within striking distance and the former Serie A

## SPAIN

## La Liga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Barcelona	11	10	1	0	33	7	+26	31	W W D W W
2 Atlético Madrid	10	9	0	1	26	7	+19	27	W L W W W
3 Real Madrid	11	8	1	2	27	14	+13	25	W L W W L
4 Villarreal	10	6	2	2	19	10	+9	20	W L W L W
5 Athletic Club	10	6	1	3	16	13	+3	19	W W D L W
6 Getafe	10	5	1	4	14	12	+2	16	L W W W W
7 Levante	10	4	4	2	12	14	-2	16	W W L W D
8 Espanyol	11	4	3	4	12	14	-2	15	D L W L L
9 Real Sociedad	11	3	5	3	13	12	+1	14	D W W L D
10 Sevilla	11	3	4	4	20	24	-4	13	L L D W D
11 Valencia	11	4	1	6	14	19	-5	13	L W D W L
12 Elche	10	3	3	4	10	13	-3	12	L W W W L
13 Real Valladolid	11	2	5	4	14	17	-3	11	D W D L D
14 Granada	10	3	2	5	6	10	-4	11	W L L W L
15 Málaga	11	2	4	5	11	14	-3	10	D L L L D
16 Osasuna	11	3	1	7	10	16	-6	10	W L D W L
17 Celta de Vigo	11	2	3	6	13	16	-3	9	L W L L L
18 Rayo Vallecano	11	3	0	8	8	27	-19	9	L L W W L
19 Real Betis	10	2	2	6	9	17	-8	8	L L L W L
20 Almería	11	1	3	7	13	24	-11	6	W L L L L

player of the year did not disappoint with a spectacular chip over Real Madrid goalkeeper Diego Lopez who was caught out drifting far off his goal line. Young Real Madrid substitute Jesé Rodríguez Ruiz did score a late equaliser, after being put through on goal by Ronaldo, but it was too little too late, Barcelona to open a 6 point gap in the La Liga standings between themselves and Real Madrid.

Quick to be put into the firing line of the Spanish Media, record signing Gareth Bale has been criticised for not having much impact in his first two months of Spanish football. However, his coach Carlo Ancelotti did defend his star off-season signing;

"Gareth Bale hasn't played extremely well, but a player of his

calibre needs time to adapt. The problem the player has is of adaptation. It's not the same to play in Spain as in England. Did I play Bale for his price tag? For me, Bale is a player like any other. I think he was a good signing for Real Madrid. Bale played because in my opinion he could play and create problems for Barcelona, only for this. I didn't start with Benzema because I did not want the opposing defence to have a clear point of reference. Therefore, Bale started on the left and could change position with Di Maria."

Meanwhile, Atletico Madrid managed to keep up the pace with Barcelona, winning their home fixture against Real Betis by an impressive 5 goals to nil. The result gave great hope for Atleti supporters, as Da-

vid Villa scored twice, the first time he eclipsed current league leading goal scorer and team mate Diego Costa. Also on the goal scorers list was an 18 year old Spaniard Oliver Torres Muñoz, definitely a name to look out for in the future. Atletico coach Diego Simeone has truly punched above his weight since taking charge of the club, but may have to wait another 12 months before being acknowledged by FIFA, Simeone was not on the shortlist for World Coach of the Year. Much to the disappointment of Atletico Madrid president Enrique Cerezo; "I don't understand why Simeone isn't amongst the top managers. He's a sensation in Europe and I am very disappointed because he deserved it".

## Latest Results

## Next Match

Villarreal 4 - 1 Valencia	Villarreal v Getafe
Real Sociedad 3 - 0 Almería	Granada v Atlético Madrid
Atl Madrid 5 - 0 Real Betis	Athletic Club v Elche
Getafe 0 - 1 Athletic Club	Real Betis v Levante
Espanyol 0 - 0 Málaga	Barcelona v Espanyol
Celta de Vigo 0 - 3 Barcelona	Real Sociedad v Osasuna
Valladolid 2 - 2 Sociedad	Almería v Real Valladolid
Valencia 1 - 2 Almería	Rayo Vallecano v Real Madrid
Real Madrid 7 - 3 Sevilla	Sevilla v Celta de Vigo
Osasuna 3 - 1 Rayo Vallecano	Getafe v Valencia

## One To Watch This Weekend...

This Sunday morning at 3am Melbourne time, the first El Clasico of the new season will take place at the Camp Nou in Barcelona. Real Madrid will travel to Barca, knowing a win can get their team level on points with Barcelona at the top of La Liga. The match can be watched live on Fox Sports in Australia.

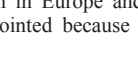
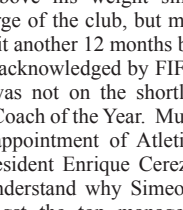
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